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Independent Study and Mentorship 3A

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Original Work Set-Up and Completion Summary

Introduction and Statement of Purpose

For my Original Work, I researched racial inequity and how disparities towards several minority groups are widely present in Dermatology yet heavily under-discussed. By conducting research and gathering data, I gained a better understanding on how this issue can be combated and how those that experience these challenges can become more knowledgeable on possible dermatological problems the general public is susceptible to regardless of complexion (EX: skin cancer). Based on prior knowledge, I am aware that the representation racial minorities receive in educational tools and products are low in comparison to other patients. With this being said, I investigated these flaws and created a basis to offer possible improvements in my Final Work (these suggestions pertain specifically to a product such as sunscreen).

Review of Skills and Research

In the process of creating my Original Work, I utilized information learned from Assessment 11 and 12 (where I was able to learn basic aspects of my topic). While conducting this research, common topics/phrases I searched were racial inequity, efficiency of sunscreen products, skin cancer, etc. These keywords allowed me to access a variety of peer-reviewed medical articles written by Dermatology professionals. Pertaining to skills that aided the creation of a well-thought research paper, I utilized critical-thinking and time management. Critical-thinking skills were helpful for my Original Work as I had to gather crucial data to formulate evidence and a strong analysis of racial inequities.

In addition, time management was useful when going through lengthy articles (I had to analyze a large quantity of articles that discussed my topic).

Methodology

- Participants: I didn't need any participants for my Original Work as the information gathered was solely based on research articles from a variety of medical databases.
- Materials: I primarily used a computer to create my research paper. To formulate a strong assessment of racial inequities in Dermatology, I researched academic articles such as those from PubMed. The data being assembled must provide an in-depth explanation regarding how certain disparities are present/shown in dermatological products, learning materials, etc.
- Description of Process and Procedures: When creating my Original Work, I utilized specific procedures to write my research paper. To provide a basic timeline, I first researched the general idea of racial inequity as this will be the context/basis for my Final Project. Furthermore, I gathered information that explains certain issues with current products "available" for racial minorities (as most products do not accommodate these patients). After gathering data over this, I focused on how dermatological companies can improve on their mechanisms/treatment of patients that have different skin complexions. Finally, I transferred the collected data into a Google Doc and organized it into a cohesive research paper.

Utilization of Higher-Level Thinking Skills

When completing the Original Work assignment, I used the skills of evaluation and analysis. To go in depth, I read articles and collected data to construct a well-thought out research paper. When gathering all of this information, it was important to decide whether the data is important enough to include as there will be a large

amount to choose from. In addition, analysis was crucial when finding the central issue concerning racial inequities in Dermatology. When using the technique of analysis, I was able to understand how I could modify the inner workings of existing disparities and create my own suggestions (specifically targeting the sunscreen product). Finally, I found organization important (pertaining to the writing process of my research paper). Without this skill, the paper would have lacked depth and purpose.

Results/Conclusions

The Original Work I created provided me with an opportunity to inform people about racial inequities through a research paper. I intended for my Original Work to be concise and informative as my main goal is to help those that have experienced hardship with non-inclusive products and other disparities in dermatological situations. Primarily, I anticipated that I would understand these issues and why they are present to begin with (which was accomplished through my research and writing). As mentioned above, the data from my Original Work will contribute to my Final Work idea of proposing a plan to improve current sunscreen products for dermatological companies (creating a higher representation for racial minority groups). In relation to the information learned, racial disparities are evident through a variety of practices in Dermatology. Unfortunately, there is an extreme lack of representation for these minority groups. This issue leads to healthcare professionals not being fully equipped to properly treat certain skin conditions or diagnose properly. Prior to my research, I was expecting all of this data to be true so this information was not surprising. However, I was not aware of COVID-19's impact on opening a further discussion of this topic and highlighting how the field of Dermatology is in need of development.

Application/Meaning

My Original Work will serve as a helpful tool to inform the general public and dermatological companies on under-discussed racial inequities in clinical practice and educational tools. It will be used as a basis of how important this issue is and why the field of Dermatology needs to become more inclusive as a whole. Collectively, the research paper will provide minority groups with much needed change as the information will be integrated into

my Final Project (which will be a proposal of creating an alternative sunscreen products that are compatible with darker skin complexions). As an individual that does not personally experience these unjust actions, I found it important to provide a voice for them. My main goal going into Dermatology was to aid people with their regiment, skin condition, etc. (with this research paper, I think this will be accomplished).