Essay for Advanced Standing Students

Taking the place of Graduate Entrance Exam (GRE), the Division of Social Work requires an academic essay. An essay for advanced standing students has been devised to assess potential applicants’ readiness for advanced graduate study. Below are the requirements for that essay.

The essay for the advanced standing applicant should demonstrate the applicant’s ability to apply a generalist social work approach in his/her social work practice to a client system where the applicant has worked during the last year. The client system can be an individual, a group, a family, an agency or organization, or a community. In your essay please address the following:

a. Briefly describe the agency, your role, and the program setting.
b. Describe the client system you will discuss in the essay. Please do not use actual names of people and other clearly identifying information, although you may identify the agency and its location.
c. Provide a summary of the assessment process with the client system.
d. Describe the actual intervention approach selected and address why that approach was selected.
e. Identify theory(ies) and concepts that support your assessment, intervention, using relevant professional resources.
f. Identify cultural, community, policy and/or practice challenges, barriers and/or issues.
g. Identify ethical issues or concerns.
h. Address how work with this client system promoted social justice.
i. Provide a summary of the effectiveness of the intervention, analyzing strengths and limitations, using evidence-based practice outcomes, if available.
j. Discuss either (1) the interaction you had with your supervisor, or (2) supervision you provided to others as you were engaged in this situation.

The essay should include references to professional social work approaches addressed in the essay, the effectiveness of certain interventions, and other relevant professional materials, including the professional Code of Ethics. The essay should be between 5-8 pages, double-spaced, using APA manuscript guidelines. Please use APA for references used both in the text of the essay and on the reference page.

This essay will be used in the screening process to evaluate your practice framework, your critical thinking skills, your writing skills, and your ability to use a social work perspective. The essay will be assessed on these factors as well as your ability to organize and present information. Most important, this essay must be written solely by the applicant. Please note that you will be required to sign a statement on the face sheet of this application that indicates that you have received no assistance with this essay.