**SOCIAL WORK 409 CLASS EXERCISE ASSIGNMENT**

**Assignment #5 Differentiation Stage of Group Exercise**

**DUE DATE: 3-24-2015**

***Do not change the formatting of this assignment***

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

You are conducting a group with the following six members.

1. Bobby (14) lives with mother and father. Teachers think dad is violent to mom and kids. Bobby has a learning disability and has repeated grades three times. He is self-conscious about his disability and is volatile when others make him feel stupid.
2. Betty (12) is a Caucasian child who does well in school but hangs out a rough crowd. Teachers suspect violence in her home. Her parents state she is hard to handle and blame her for things. Both parents have come to school smelling of alcohol.
3. Anthony (15) is an African American new to town. He is overweight and withdrawn. Anthony’s dad is a tyrant who is very strict. Anthony has been hanging with gang members.
4. Tonja (14) is an African American learning disabled girl living with her mother and her father. In the past Tonja has always felt that she was just stupid and that is why she was getting bad grades. The diagnosis of a learning disability did not seem to alter her perceptions of herself. The school has tried to include the parents but they do not come in for meetings. One of the teachers has reported that both parents are heavy drinkers and often out at the bar. The same teacher reported that they often yell and swear at Tonja. The guidance counselor at the highschool referred her to group because she is hanging out with guys who are likely to be taking sexual advantage of her. The school thinks she is putting herself at risk due to low self esteem.
5. Frank is a fourteen year-old Caucasian boy diagnosed with attention deficit/hyperactive disorder. He takes ritilin to control the disorder but often forgets or sells his drugs to other kids so they can get high. Frank tends argue allot at school and never turns in his assignments. The teachers have contacted the parents but they both have similar learning disabilities and dropped out of school after grade eight. When on the phone with the family, teachers reported hearing loud yelling and swearing at the children. The school referred the family for the high risk group.
6. Wanda is a twelve year-old African American girl who lives with her mother and father. Wanda is a good student and has been doing well in school, however, the parents have been concerned because she seems depressed and withdrawn. This seems to have coincided with her hanging out with a new group of friends. As the parents have tried to get her to open up she has withdrawn more and stayed out later with her friends. This has created heated arguments and the parents are fearing that she may be into drugs. The parents are also fearing that the arguments may turn violent so they referred to the group.

You are now in the seventh meeting and you have noticed the following dynamics.

Betty began sharing a story about a past family fight where her father became violent. She stated that it is easier to hit people because others back away and you don’t have to deal with things. As she was speaking, Bobby said something to Anthony and Betty turned to him and said, “Bobby, you always talk with Anthony when I am talking. This is important to me so please listen.”

Bobby became upset with Betty when she confronted him. He said that she was always making him look stupid and she should also have to apologize. Betty looked Bobby straight in the eye and said, “but I don’t joke around when you are talking.” Bobby was silent.

Your co-leader (surprise – didn’t know you had one did you). Intervened with Bobby stating that this isn’t about what Betty was doing, it was about how he was treating her with disrespect.

**Assignment #5**

**Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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| **First, what themes in the exchanges between Bobby and Betty indicate that there is a strong foundation for work?** |
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| **What do you think the outcome of the co-leader’s intervention will be?** |
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| **What do you want to do in response to your co-leader’s intervention?** |
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| **What would you do to deepen the work at the group level?** |
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| **During the exchanges, Anthony was becoming agitated and tried to get other people to joke around. As he did this, Wanda rolled her eyes back into her head. How might you use this non-verbal communication to further the work that you started with Bobby and Betty?** |
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| **Tonja has been very quiet but listening intently. She nodded when Bobby was accusing Betty about making him feel stupid. How might you develop this theme and get her to open up more about how she experiences social relationships?** |
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