

Integrative Journal Assignment

Grant Huang, Rehabilitation Science

RHBS 720: Principles of Clinical Trials

During the course, students will keep a journal on topics related to clinical trials. This journal promotes critical thought and good writing on selected areas covered in the class and helps the student learn to succinctly communicate on relevant course topics. Each student must complete four journal entries from the topics below, each comprising one single-spaced page. In addressing the topics, *which take "real world" situations and connect them to points raised in class*, students need to integrate principles, materials, and/or discussions from classes and cite appropriate references. They also help students reflect on personal values and insights. Students are encouraged also to post their entries to our Blackboard discussion board for others to review.

Journals are evaluated on clarity of writing, presentation and discussion of the issue, individual thought and creativity, integration of course principles or materials, insight of conclusions, and adherence to format and guidelines.

Sample Topics

The Importance of Clinical Trials

Find a media report and/or other public report of a clinical trial and then try to obtain the original paper. Discuss what you found to be the importance of the study's findings, including any implications for the respective field, clinical practice, and/or policy. Be sure to also address the importance for the trial from more than one stakeholder's perspective.

Clinical Trial Communication

Find two examples of clinical research recruitment advertisements (print, video, or other media may be used). After a brief description of the advertisement (including where it was found) and the study, discuss strengths/weaknesses of each communication, including where, how, and what information is presented. If you (or a loved one) were a potentially eligible participant, would you be interested in the study? What types of discussions would you have (and with whom) prior to consenting to participate?