

For this assignment, you will choose a professional who works with students with special needs, or their families. You will then interview these individuals.

The Interview:

For professional members, tailor your interview to include details related to the first 11 chapters of the Turnbull book. Take a look at Chapter 11 for some ideas of where to look for professional resources (teachers, administrators, counselors, psychologists, local agencies, etc.)

Suggested topics:

1. What is your agency? What is your role? How do you see yourself impacting students with special needs?
2. Collaboration: How do you collaborate with other agencies? Families? Individuals? What has that collaboration been like?
3. Case studies: do you have any stories about how the disability has impacted the students functioning? What was your role?
4. Interactions with outside professionals: what has working with outsiders been like? Suggested individuals include teachers, doctors, case managers, psychologists, etc.
5. Expectations: how do you set expectations? Is that your role?
6. Meetings: describe what meetings are like.
7. Professionals as advocates: how has this professional had to be an advocate?
8. Joys and frustrations of special education and/or working with special needs population
9. Ideal vision of your job
10. Your topic here:_____

Allow this interview to take on a fluid and natural course. Have a discussion. When you are finished,

1. Summarize your discussion, or if you have recorded it, you can write a transcript of the discussion.
2. Reflect on the main points of the discussion: What was interesting to you that you didn't know before? What is something that was shared that you hadn't thought of? What is something that you will take from the discussion into your own practice? As a professional, how might you utilize this professional?

Your interview should be 2-3 pages in length, double-spaced, and the reflection should be 1-2 pages in length.

I am flexible if you wish to use another modality to present your interview, such as filming, however you will need to get the permission of the individual you are interviewing to present the footage to the class. (If you need permission forms, I can supply them.) You will still need to write a reflection on the experience.