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Caring for Humanity: Non-Profit Elderly Law

Sierra Samp

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Caring for Humanity: Non-Profit Elderly Law

Legal Services for Seniors

Photo Credit: Legal Services for Seniors

Sierra Samp
Human Communication 475: Senior Capstone
Pre-Law
Internship
Dr. Renee Curry
Division of Humanities and Communication
Fall 2017
Caring for Humanity:  
Non-Profit Elderly Law

Sierra Samp
HCOM 475: Senior Capstone
Division of Humanities and Communication
Fall 2017
Acknowledgements

I would like to thank my mom and dad for supporting me throughout all my academic endeavors. They have been my backbone throughout my life and made it possible for me to get this far in my education.

I would also like to thank Legal Services for Seniors for helping me gain knowledge and experience in the field I am interested in. These attorneys and legal advocates do so much for the elderly community, and I am glad I was able to be a part of it.

Lastly, but not least, I would like to thank all of my professors that have taught me to communicate in a way that could help move the world to a brighter future.
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1. Sierra Samp, Concentration: Pre-law

2. Internship Site: Legal Services for Seniors

The internship site that I chose is Legal Services for Seniors. This law firm is a no-cost legal assistance for Monterey county seniors ages 60 and over. The site helps with consumer fraud, wills, elder abuses, landlord/tenant issues, and many other legal problems. At this site, I will focus on humanity through the lens of caring. I have chosen to intern at this site because I will be able to work directly with the attorneys that have the goal to care for everyone that comes through the doors. I can observe this care in humanity through observing and interviewing various people. This internship will be beneficial in order to see the humanity in not only the attorneys, but also the citizens.

3. Internship Description:

My duties at the site will including greeting possible clients, taking client intakes, answering the phones, organizing legal documents, and helping attorneys with legal research. I will help clients fill out paperwork and then upload it into the database for the attorneys to have easy access to it. I will be able to work with the attorneys on certain cases to gain new knowledge in the legal field. Throughout the multiple tasks, I will be observing the care through humanity that attorneys give to their clients. I chose this internship site because it will help me to work with the community in the Monterey County with something that I am passionate about. Humanity is such a broad word to define. Through the lens of care, it will let me focus to see what the benefits care gives to the community and to the people themselves. I have been interested in going into the legal field for many years, so this opportunity is perfect in order to get the experience that I need.

4. Alignment with Common Theme:

This site will align with the topic of defining humanity because there is a certain aspect of care that comes with humanity. When helping the elderly, these attorneys portray their humanity through the care that they give the clients. This aspect of humanity is prominent throughout the legal office because one of the main goals of the attorneys is to help as many clients as they are able to.

5. Internship Site Supervisor:

Legal Services for Seniors

Kellie Morgantini

Executive Director
6. Goals and Expectations:

Some goals that I hope to take away from the Legal Services for Seniors internship opportunity are being able to understand different legal terminology, to understand why the attorneys spread their humanity through the care that they give the clients, and to understand the importance that the legal community has on creating a more humane world to live in. I expect to gain knowledge about the legal system and a deeper understanding of what humanity is. I want to be able to understand this caring aspect of humanity and how it helps to move humans forward in their everyday lives. I also hope to witness and experience the benefits of humanity through care. I will be able to witness the attorneys working with clients and take notes on not so much as what they say, but how they treat the person that is longing for their help. I will also answer phone calls to see the different caring experiences that the attorneys offer the clients. I will interview the different attorneys to see if they recognize what they are doing as creating humanity through care, or if they see it as something that is different. I will document what I learn in a journal, so that at the end of the internship process, I will be able to see from beginning to end of how humanity is shaped into a legal office setting.

7. Next Steps:

My next steps that I must take to move my internship forward are setting up a schedule with the executive director at my site, get started at my site, and observe and learn why people get involved in these caring organizations. I will first start off by observing ways that the attorneys care for their clients, then I will try to get some one on one time with the attorneys to possibly have an interview. During this process, I will also do some self-reflecting to examine myself. I will also take notes on how the clients treat the attorneys and see the possible benefits that may come from caring for people that are in challenging situations. By taking these steps, it will give me a better understanding of why humanity reacts in a sort of caring manner for the other humans.

8. Timeline:

Week of 9/25- 10/1:

Get needed paperwork signed by executive director, Kellie Morgantini

Week of 10/2- 10/8:

Start internship and complete eight hours on Wednesday. Create hypothesis on what I believe will be the end result. Start journal with the observing of the attorneys, legal advocates, and clients.

Week of 10/9- 10/15:

Go to internship and complete eight hours on Wednesday. Continue to observe and journal.

Weeks of 10/16-11/19:

Go to internship each Wednesday for eight hours. Also start on internship documents to start getting them completed on 10/31. During these weeks, I will do various interviews in my journal. I will also start to compare my hypothesis to the results from journaling.
Weeks of 11/20-11/26:
Fall break

Week of 11/27-12/3:
Have completed internship documents for completed capstone.

Week of 12/4-12/10:
Create final portfolio to turn in 12/12.

Week of 12/14-12/15:
Capstone festival
Today, I observed people at the law office to see how they use their humanity to care for the clients. It was a fairly slow day when it came to walk-ins or appointments, but while the lawyers were talking, I was able to see some aspects of care that stood out. One way that they show their care is trying to reach out to as many people as possible through outreaches and taking on legal services that are not normally done in the office. The elderly may not be able to make it to one of the two offices we have, so some attorneys take time to drive to the outskirts of Monterey County to help these people. This shows the caring aspects because they are willing to go out of their usual routines in order to help some people that truly need it.

Another thing that stood out today, is when the attorneys agreed with each other that it was hard to see these vulnerable elderly people in difficult situations. These attorneys acknowledge that many of the clients are in situations that they would not be able to resolve without legal help. When these clients come in, they are already in a difficult situation, so by making the services cost-free it takes a huge burden off the clients. These attorneys are able to run these offices cost-free by taking their time to ask for sponsorships, donations, and government funding. By taking all of these steps in order to continue to help the numerous clients, it shows their humanity through wanting to care for the elderly.

An important aspect of how they serve their clients is to practice with ethics. They go the extra mile to make sure to make ethical choices in each case. Some of the ethical choices that the
attorneys have to make is the different ways to go about a case. Since they are not working for the pay of the average attorney, they take on the small cases that may have been turned away by self-practicing attorneys because they would not be worth the short amount of time. When a client comes in because they simply cannot write or understand something they got in the mail, they take the time to help them to understand it. These tasks may seem so easy to most people, but to the elderly it can be completely frustrating.

10/11/17

One important and special aspect about this law office is that the attorneys will work together with one another in order to find the best outcome for the clients. During case review, the attorneys can ask for different opinions and knowledge that would help their cases. By helping one another, we are able to see not only the care for the clients, but also care for the other attorneys. Every attorney wants the best outcome even if it is for the fellow attorneys in the office. By taking the time to do these case reviews, the attorneys are setting aside this time to make sure that they can help their clients the best they can and also help the fellow attorneys clients. With all the different laws, sometimes it is best to get all of these perspectives in order to see what the next steps should be to care for their clients.

In the offices, the attorneys tend to get non-English speaking clients. For some, having a language barrier can be so challenging, but for these attorneys they practice different languages inside and outside of the law offices. For example, one of the attorneys signed up for a Spanish course in order to understand the Spanish-speaking clientele better. Even though the bi-lingual attorneys may not be able to master another language, they take the initiative to try to learn another language to create a mutual understanding.
When working with the elderly community, they may also have hearing difficulties or memory loss. Since the confidentiality aspects are so important in this law office, the attorneys will work one-on-one with the client until they are able to properly hear what they need to. The attorneys also make sure that before proceeding with their case, their client can explain why they are there. If the client is clueless why they are there, it can be because someone brought them there in order to do something in a selfish manner. These attorneys will not let the elderly be taken advantage of especially if they do not want the legal services that their family or friends are pushing them to get. These attorneys care to hear from the clients by themselves to receive the full truth about why they are at the office. It shows how much these attorneys care, because they do not force people into having services. Sometimes the care that the elderly client needs, is to not be pushed around by people that they know or are related to.

10/27/17

Today was quite busy in the office. Something that stood out to me at case review is when the judge talked about why he came back to be an attorney. He explained that he likes helping and taking care of the clients’ needs. He loved both being a judge and an attorney, but his passion to help people was what brought him to the office as an attorney again.

When clients walk in, confidentiality is very important. The attorneys make sure to work one-on-one so that they can get the best care. Many times, clients come in with family members that brought them, and they are not sure about the reasoning of why they were brought there. It is important to take this extra step of confidentiality to make sure the client is not being taken
advantage of. With the elderly, their families can try to sway them into something that they do not want.

One attorney, Natalie Herendeen, set time aside so that I could interview her about her thoughts about the caring aspects in humanity. She was reluctant to agreeing that she helps humanity, but she did agree that she tries her hardest to help individuals in humanity. She told me that her goal was to give seniors in the community a voice. There are some documents that seem overwhelming for some people, so these attorneys will simplify it in a manner the elderly person can understand.

Natalie also stated that "80% of the time we tell people their rights, options, and responsibilities." Sometimes there are clients that walk in, and they end up being in the wrong side of a situation. This is where the attorneys will let them know what their rights and responsibilities are in order to move forward in a lawful manner. A common problem among the elderly is that they sign themselves into contracts that they do not read, and they end up being bad contracts. Attorneys will work with these cases until they can try to get these clients out of these contracts.

Medical debt is also one of the big problems among the elderly. Some seniors do not want to file for bankruptcy because they are afraid of what it could mean. Many times, after they file for bankruptcy through our attorneys, their quality of life becomes better. They do not have to worry about the medical bills that kept piling up over all of the medical visits. Many people do not understand what is going on, and they are afraid of not having any options. The attorneys at this office want to show the elderly all of their options, and help them by figuring out which one would be best for their particular situation. After knowing these options, it is able to give the elderly client a peace of mind.
Even though these attorneys are very knowledgeable, they never look down on clients that cannot understand certain things. If the clients can't understand certain aspects of solving their case, the attorneys will step in and will help with the legalities of the situation. These attorneys help people to work out these stressful situations that can be causing harm to their health.

11/1/17

Today there was a lot of walk-in clients. Since it was a busy day, I took all of their information so that I could pass it on to the attorneys. These attorneys will assure these walk-in clients that they will contact them as soon as possible. If it is something such as a 3-day notice, the attorneys will drop whatever they are working on in order to try to get the client more time in the residence. The attorneys know that the client may not be able to stay there if they already got this notice, but they know without more time, these clients could end up on the streets. With a little more time, the clients can find a new place of residence or resolve any problems with their current landlords. The number of hours these attorneys put into a case and the urgency that is given to help people shows their care in humanity.

A client left a message on the voicemail today saying how much she appreciated what one of the attorneys has done for her. I talked to the attorney about this client and it seemed as if one thing after another kept going wrong. The attorney worked through this case and even went the extra mile to help the client sign up for section 8 housing because the client was about to become homeless. On the call the client stated, “you make my world so easy” and I think that is
one of the main goals of these attorneys. They want to make these stressful situations easier so that these elderly people can live an easier life.

11/8/2017

Today was a little different at the office. I helped one of the attorneys work one-on-one with a client. The client was in dire need to sort out her financial situation and was overly confused by all the legal aspects. Even though many things were just about lifestyle and spending habits, the attorney could tell that the client was getting overwhelmed. The attorney reassured the client that everything was going to be alright, and even offered up a glass of water to help the client become more relaxed.

Some questions that needed to be answered were written in a way that the client did not completely understand. The attorney would do things such as break it down into simpler terms or show pictures on the internet to the client so that she could get a visual of what the attorney was asking about. I could tell the client appreciated that the attorney was taking the time to help her understand instead of just getting frustrated.

By doing something as simple as reassuring her and getting her a glass of water, it seemed as if the client was calmer. These acts help to show how much they care about the clients that come into the office. The humanness of the attorneys is able to work through the care that they give their clients. The office would not be as successful if there was not the aspect of caring for these humans in need.

11/15/17
Today was “The Give and Get Luncheon” hosted by Legal Services for Seniors. This is a lunch that is hosted every year in order to get the funds to make Legal Services for Seniors possible. These people come to the luncheon ready to give their support the local elderly community. Most of these people are professionals throughout the community, which includes many private practice attorneys. These people take time out of their hectic schedules every year in order to support this organization. Some people may not be able to physically give their time to the organization, but they are able to show their care for the seniors through the donations that they are willing to give.

Something that was amazing to me during this time, was how each person in that room cared so much about these seniors in the community. During the speeches, people were choking up because they know that these elderly people are so vulnerable. One of the private practice attorneys that I talked to, mentioned how the new ways of doing things through the new technology can be so frustrating and difficult for the elderly to understand. With this technology, many of these elderly people are scammed and persuaded into fraudulent contracts.

Another thing that stood out to me was how people are willing to give some of their assets to Legal Services for Seniors after they pass away. Many people give it to their family, but to reach out and give it to elderly strangers that need it most, is just a remarkable thing to do. They have been so fortunate in their lives, so to see people near their same age that are going through these tough situations is heart-wrenching to them. They care to make sure that these elderly people in the community have what they need, so that they will not be taken advantage of.

11/22/17
Today during case review, a new idea was brought up that will be so helpful to the future of Legal Services for Seniors. When clients would call, and we did not do the sort of law that they were calling for, we would have to refer them to the Lawyer Referral Service. This service would charge the client in order to pair them up with an attorney for thirty minutes that specialized in the particular area of law that they needed. Many times, the clients are so low income that this option may not have been possible for them. The site supervisor came up with the idea to ask private practice attorneys to do certain cases pro bono or cheaper than their usual rates. They mentioned how many attorneys may be interested because this will be a way to give back to their community. Sometimes attorneys have to do pro bono to meet certain bar criteria as well.

If this new system gets set up, I am sure it will be a huge success in caring for even more clients. By doing all the work to reach out to these other attorneys, shows how much they care about the clients throughout the community. This will require many phone calls to be made and will also involve making deals with these private practice attorneys. This will be a huge step forward in being able to help clients throughout the community. Before this, we would not be able to refer out to anyone other than the Lawyer Referral Service because the clients were so low income. To go through so much just to protect people’s rights, shows how much they care for the clients’ well-being.
Analytical Essay: Humanity Through Care

The topic of humanity seems quite impossible to define. There are so many aspects that could make up humanity, such as empathy, communication, morality, care, and socialization. There seems to be a limitless amount of ways in which we are able to know what humanity is. With such a broad topic, I wanted to focus on humanity through care in the legal field. Humanity through care is seen every day in the law offices of Legal Services for Seniors, so I decided that this would be the perfect place for me to examine these care aspects. Throughout this time at these law offices, I have learned that humanity is caring for the vulnerable, being passionate about helping others, improving the quality of life of others, protecting people’s rights, and so much more.

While interning at Legal Services for Seniors, the attorneys would have numerous clients come in daily, and each day, I experienced or observed something new that showed how much they care for these strangers in the community. These elderly people are in such a vulnerable state and need the help from someone who will stand up for them and give them a voice. Some of the cases may be as simple as filling out legal documents, whereas others were far more in depth. In certain cases, a phone call will resolve the situation, but at other times it can take weeks for a case to be resolved. The clients may come in shaking because they do not know what their options are. When someone does not know what they can do to move forward, having someone there to help can be life-changing.
To understand and to see the vulnerability of these elderly clients is something remarkable that these attorneys are able to do. With the innovative technology, it can be frustrating to the clients. This is not something that most of them grew up with, but yet, they are expected to just know how to work everything. It is taken for granted that everyone should be able to work a phone, computer, tablet, and the other technology, but most of the elderly community are forgotten about. Sometimes the elderly clients do not have any of this technology, so the attorneys will take the time and send the messages through the postal services. It is not as fast, but it is still a form of communicating to these clients. The world is formed for the humans of the future and often forget about the elderly. These attorneys take the time to step forward to help the clients with their needs so that they will not have to be lost in this futuristic world.

The vulnerability of humanity can be hidden or can be in plain sight. It is up to the people that make up humanity to take it upon themselves to pass the care on to these people. Everyone is faced with challenges that they do not know how to overcome, but to have an ally by their side makes the burden be lifted a little. Humanity is to care for those that are in these vulnerable states. These vulnerable people may not want to show it because they may feel weak when having to ask for help. Having independence is what most individuals want, but at times, having someone else there to care and help with something can be necessary. The elderly community is in a whole different world than when they were younger. The technology is confusing, and scammers know this. The attorneys step in because they know that their care would be beneficial to these vulnerable clients.

These attorneys always go the extra mile when solving their cases or trying to reach out to those that need their help. A couple times a week, some attorneys will go to the outskirts of
Monterey County so that clients can meet with them. In many cases, these elderly clients do not drive anymore, so to have an attorney come closer to them can be the deciding factor of whether or not they get the care they need. These outreaches usually would take place at a library or some other public facility where they would be able to meet up. Sometimes these attorneys have to drive an hour to simply meet with one client. They do not think of that as a wasted time, because they know the quality of help is just as important as the quantity. If one person gets the help that they need, accomplishment is obtained by the attorney and relief is given to the client. By going out of their way to help these clients, shows how much they care. They are constantly looking for people to help and they are so passionate about the jobs that they are able to accomplish.

Another way these attorneys show how passionate they are about helping others can be seen through how many cases they take on and are successful in. There will be numerous clients that walk in, call on the phones, or on the voicemail machine. Some clients will call with a case that these attorneys are unable to help them with. Instead of just turning the client away, these attorneys will give the clients different options that will help them to move forward. By giving them these steps, they are no longer lost and confused on what they need to do. Some of the clients cannot afford these alternative options, so they are in the process of finding more private practice attorneys that will do certain cases pro bono or cheaper than their average cost. If they are able to find options like this, they will be able to help even more clients in need.

Many times, these clients are living on their last dollars with no where to turn. The stress that they are under can be overwhelming and the attorneys are able to see this when these clients walk through the doors. By offering these cost-free attorneys, the elderly clients are able to walk into the Legal Services for Seniors knowing that they will be able to get the needed help. Many
clients will come in and are close to losing everything they own, which at times is very little. They cannot afford an attorney that will cost on average one-hundred dollars per hour. By knowing that these attorneys are able to help them, the clients are able to stress less. Being in a situation that is stressful can not only cause psychological harm, but it can be physically exhausting. By taking this heavy load off the client, they tend to be able to have an improved quality of life.

The medical bills pile up and can be more than a person would ever make in their whole lifetime. This is where the attorneys will bring up the option of bankruptcy to the clients. This word, bankruptcy, can be quite intimidating. The clients do not know what it means to file for bankruptcy and they never imagined that they would be in such a predicament. Having to deal with the financial burden of medical bills, it can also take a toll on someone’s health. To improve the quality of life for these elderly people, they will help to lessen these burdens or sometimes they can help to remove them completely. The clients’ physical health tends improve when they do not have to worry about the debt.

The people that make up humanity are given rights. Particularly in America, we are given certain rights, but we also have many laws that we must follow. The rights we are given are vast, and for many elderly people, they may not know about them all. These attorneys have spent years learning about these rights that people have, and it is up to them to inform people of these rights. By letting people know their rights, it is equal to letting them know what their options may be. At Legal Service for Seniors, it was common to inform people of their landlord tenant rights, their financial rights, and their personal rights. Just by doing something as simple as informing someone of their rights, I could tell that the clients were very grateful. By being
part of humanity, humans should be informed of their rights. Caring for humanity is being able to pass on the knowledge to a person that may not have been able to obtain it.

When I interviewed one attorney at the office, Natalie Herendeen, she stated “80% of the time we tell people their rights, options, and responsibilities” because clients otherwise may not have that knowledge and it will help to solve the cases (Herendeen, Natalie. Personal interview. 27 October 2017). Sometimes by just having this knowledge of what their rights are, they are able to solve the situation without even going any further. Some clients will come in and these attorneys will know that they are not doing things in a lawful manner. They will inform them on ways that they can proceed in a way that they follow the laws. Sometimes people will be unaware they are breaking certain laws with their actions, but the attorneys will inform them of the actions that they need to take. Caring for humanity is being able to help those that are not informed about what their rights and responsibilities consist of.

Another situation that tends to come up in many of the elderly cases is landlord eviction notices. When a person gets a noticed placed on their door stating that they have a certain number of days to leave, they may not know what to do. Sometimes the only other option would be becoming homeless and at ages over sixty, sometimes it can lead to their decrease in health. The attorneys may not be able to fight to have the person stay in the same residence, but they will be able to extend the days so that the clients could find another place to live. There are certain rights that a tenant has, but without having an attorney, they may never have been aware of their rights. There are certain laws around how many days need to be given on an eviction notice, so if these laws are not met, it can be so helpful to these clients. Although helping to look for housing is not what attorneys do usually, these attorneys have the empathy to help these people so that they have a place to live.
Humanity is caring for those that need it. Some people may need more help than others, but it is up to humanity to give their time in order to offer this help. Every person in this world has needed help at one time or another, so to do something for someone else, is to continue to pass on the virtuous deeds. These attorneys do tireless work for these strangers in the hope that they will be able to help those throughout humanity. In Legal Services for Seniors, the hours that the attorneys give of their time is remarkable. There are some attorneys that help this office that also have their own private practices. They come to Legal Service for Seniors so that they can do pro bono work and help the elderly community. These attorneys can be making substantially bigger paychecks if they solely did private practice work, but they choose to do this pro bono work to care for humanity.

In the text we read for class, “Human Goodness,” there is a quote that states “Confucius seems to have truly sympathized with plain folks” (Tuan 85). These attorneys are much like Confucius in that way. The clients that walk into the office are confused about their next steps to take, but these well-educated attorneys step in to help resolve the issues. These attorneys do not see themselves other than an average person, but to the clients that walk in, they are so much more. They are able to give knowledge and support that they may have not been able to get somewhere else. The care that they can give is something unique that not all people can do. Education, especially among the elderly community of this time period, was very scarce. They were not able to get all of the education that we are offered nowadays, which makes it hard for them to resolve these issues. This group in humanity needs the help and the attorneys at Legal Services for Seniors are willing to offer it.

At the end of the day, we are humans living in this crazy and hectic world, so caring for other people is needed for humanity to continue. These attorneys always go the extra distance in
order to make sure that their clients are taken care of. Many times, they are even able to help clients with issues that the clients have not even discovered yet. The clientele that walk in the office is one of the most vulnerable groups in this community. These attorneys take it as their duty to care for the individuals that make up humanity. They come to the office each weekday being passionate about helping the clients. The attorneys help them in the legal aspects, but also in the humanly aspects. They know the clients are stressed, so they try their best to work in a manner that will seem like less of a burden. With decreasing health of the elderly, having someone care and help them with these cases can be crucial.

Throughout the forty hours of internship at Legal Services for Seniors, I have discovered what care in humanity looks like. Humanity is caring for the vulnerable, being passionate about helping others, helping people to improve their quality of life, and protecting peoples’ rights. Non-profit organizations are a great example of what humanity is or what humanity strives to be. These attorneys give their most valuable assets, which is time and education. We need people throughout humanity to give instead of always receiving. In humanity, we must work together as one in order to reach the common goals, mutual understandings, and to move forward as a society. When we feel like we have nothing else to give, understanding and caring for the humanness of an individual is what we are able to give to a society.
Sierra Samp Evaluation
To: R Curry - rcurry@csumb.edu
CSUMB

RE: Sierra Samp Internship - Legal Services for Seniors

Dear Professor Curry,

Sierra Samp has completed her 40-hour internship with Legal Services for Seniors.

Under the supervision of our staff attorneys, legal advocates and me, Sierra has proved to be an invaluable addition to our staff.

Most importantly, Sierra grasps the need for absolute client confidentiality needed in working in a law firm assisting clients suffering from all manner of legal problems and needs.

Sierra is prompt, learns quickly and can distinguish legal from non-legal issues presented to us by our clients.

We are lucky to have Sierra with us and welcome her back anytime - she is a helpful addition to our legal team and for our low-income senior clients.

If and when we can provide an actual new paid position for a legal advocate, I would not hesitate to offer that position to Sierra.

I would be happy to discuss at greater length Sierra’s contributions to Legal Services for Seniors, just give me a call: 831.899.0492.

Sincerely,

Legal Services for Seniors

Kellie D. Morgantini
Executive Director

5 December 2017
Final Synthesis Essay

As my Capstone class comes to an end, I have learned so much more about what humanity is. Topics across the class have a sense of diversity, equally as diverse as the students that sit in the class with me. We have learned about humanity though the text we read, the media we watched, and the stories we have heard. I have been able to contribute to the class by having seminar discussions with other students, challenging ideas brought up in class, and helping to create a mutual understanding of our topic.

My professor has brought up ideas about humanity that I have never thought about before. An example of this is the media she had showed us about conjoined twins named Brittany and Abby. She brought up the different idea about how they are viewed in the topic of humanity. Many times, humanity is thought of as a person, but in this case, we questioned if they would be seen as being one being in humanity or two. Having these questions brought up helped us to talk in class about concepts that can be easily forgotten about. We define humanness as an individual, but the confusing part comes when two people are in one body.

When asked about my internship in class and how it was able to relate to our topic of humanity, I was able to show how a law firm is able to give so much care. I was able to talk about the legal system and how these non-profit attorneys help the vulnerable, elderly clients. I was able to hear about other students’ projects and how they were able to examine the aspects of humanity. Some people did topics that I have not heard much about, so it was quite interesting to hear the different viewpoints that they brought up.
I was able to work both independently and collaboratively with others in my section and at my internship site. When it came to choosing my topic, I worked independently and completed the hours needed for the course. I chose my topic, took notes while at the internship, and observed the various aspects of humanity that were around me.

I worked collaboratively when it came to doing interviews at my internship site, talking to the attorneys, and having seminar discussions. I interviewed a couple of the attorneys at the site to see how they felt about the topic of caring for humanity in their work. The interviews were short, but the information that I was able to get from the different viewpoints was extraordinary. Many did not see themselves as crucial as the clients saw them. The interviews really helped me in order to see how the attorneys work in a way in which they are not looking for anything in return. They did their job because this is what they were passionate about and that was important to hear for my capstone. I also was able to work with attorneys one-on-one to see how they work with clients and to see the care put into action.

I worked collaboratively with other students in the seminar to talk about their viewpoints on what humanity is. In the beginning, some of them were struggling to figure out what option they wanted to choose for their capstone, so I would explain to them what I was doing to see if that would help them. Also, when we would have seminar talks, I would bring up my opinions on the different media we were shown and loved to hear the different perspectives of how we are able to know what humanity is.

Most of my project, I worked independently because I thought it was important for me to observe and experience the care in humanity. I would work journaling and taking notes when people said or did something that I felt was what care in humanity looked or felt like. Also in the office, since the attorneys were very busy, I would do clients in-takes, call clients, and take walk-
ins. I would help them with whatever I could because they needed time to focus on the legal aspects of the cases. Through my observation and experiences, I worked independently to get the needed information for both the law office and my capstone project. Given the time limit to explore such a vast topic, I needed to focus to create a clear understanding of what ways I am able to know what humanity consists of.

Through my senior project, I was able to show my deepening understanding of what humanity is. I focused on the aspect of care in humanity and have learned so much about humanity and myself. I learned that care is such a unique part of humanity. Everyone is able to give care, but the type of care varies by an individual. I believe everyone has the capability to offer care, but sometimes they just choose not to. I have found out that even though the field of law can seem like an intimidating concept, the care that they are able to give is remarkable. They may seem like tough attorneys on the stand for their clients, but they are being tough because they care to prevail with the best outcome.

Throughout the weeks of this course, I have met the required criteria and standards of the capstone project. I have completed over forty hours of the internship and have received an evaluation that approves of the work that I did in my time at the office. I completed the reflective journals each week that I went to the site and explained in each how they related back to the capstone topic. I have applied my problem-solving skills in the law offices in order to help the attorneys with the different cases. While in the office, I dressed in a professional manner and took on each case with professionalism. Confidentiality is crucial when working in a legal office, so I made sure to keep this in mind with the work I did. Throughout my time at the offices, I examined the actions of the attorneys and clients in order to get a better understanding about the course topic.
In the seminar, I took the initiative to talk about the different viewpoints that were brought up and I was not afraid to speak my opinions. The class offered a very welcoming atmosphere and the students were not afraid to contribute to the conversations. These conversations were able to go into depth because there is so much knowledge that different students wanted to share.

Throughout this course, I have appreciated all the help I have received. Dr. Renee Curry would help me with the aesthetics of the project and to broaden my thinking about what a human is. The attorneys helped me by showing me the care that they offer to their clients and by letting me interview them to get an insight about their viewpoints. Lastly, my class has helped me to come to conclusions about ways of knowing humanity that I may have not thought about if they did not bring them up. As the course comes to an end, I know that I will be able to take this knowledge with me beyond graduation.
Works Cited

Herendeen, Natalie. Personal interview. 27 October 2017.
