

To: Taj Tatla
From: Samuel King
Date: February 6, 2016
Subject: Peer Review of Formal Report Proposal

Upon finishing reading your proposal I am very intrigued in the subject matter you are addressing. You have done an adequate job introducing the problem and solution while clearly highlighting the important details of the project. The following is a breakdown on the strengths of your proposal as well as some suggestions to improve it.

Organization

While reading your proposal I was impressed by your organization. You have structured the headings and sub-headings in a way that help guide the reader. Changing the headings to bold, the sub-headings to italicized and appropriately spacing each out would help further capture the reader's attention.

Section Overview

Introduction

You have provided an introduction with great ideas. It starts with poignant statistics that bring to light an important matter in our region of the world. A question you could answer that gives more weight to your subject is "How many of those 465 drug overdoses in British Columbia were in the city of Vancouver?".

Statement of Problem

The problem statement needs more clarification as it is ambiguous and slightly convoluted. When reading this I was having trouble trying to infer what your statement problem actually is. Specifically state if it is a lack of education and/or the use of Fentanyl by drug users. Doing this will allow the reader to more easily understand the problem at hand.

Proposed Solution

Your proposed solution highlights social determinants of health which are very much at the root of this problem. Something to consider is choosing which social determinants are the most important for your solution?(ie. Education, Early Childhood Development, Unemployment, Social Exclusion, Health Services, or Disability)

Scope and Methods

The strongest aspect of your proposal is your Scope section. Trying to identify what gaps and barriers are preventing youth from accessing drug awareness programs is perhaps the biggest and most important challenge in your Formal Report. Also consider how would you measure the

effectiveness of current and newly implemented programs? Contacting the BC Centre of Disease Control is most definitely a great option as it should provide up to date and reliable information and statistics.

Qualifications and Conclusions

Your background in biology and neurosciences will give you a solid foundation in which to make a great report. Finding solid statistics and reputable references is an extremely time consuming task but will add more validity to your report. The conclusion provided is efficient and states your intent on handling this complex problem.

Grammar

The structure of writing is satisfactory and I have a only few suggestions to improve the expression of your ideas:

- 1. "In addition a lack of training and preparedness in a social setting attributes to increased incidence of overdose among youth." Could be rewritten as "In addition, a lack of education and experience in social settings increases the risk of drug overdoses among youth."
- 2. "Since most of these causal factors are environmental and malleable to change." Might sound better as "Since most of these influential factors are based within society, they are subject to change." Recall that social determinants are aspects of a society within an environment.
- 3. "Beginning users who have not built up a strong drug tolerance are overwhelmed by strong potent drugs resulting in overdose." May be rewritten as "New drug users who have not developed a tolerance are very vulnerable to overdosing."

Conclusion

Overall, this was a good attempt at writing a Formal Report Proposal. Coming from a Health Sciences background I praise your concern with the local drug overdose problem in youth. Your proposed report will be a very intense exercise and has the potential to be very insightful and informative for the audience you are addressing. If you have any questions with my review please do not hesitate to contact me so we can discuss your proposal further.