**PAPER PART 3: DATA COLLECTION AND PRELIMINARY FINDINGS, METHODOLOGY CRITIQUE, AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS**

**Length 6-8 pages, (not including Informed Consent and De-identified Completed Questionnaires in Appendix).**

**Due Week 13 25% of Final Grade**

In this third phase, you will pre-test or pilot the interview questionnaire with three people who are members of your target group.

If you wish to pilot or pre-test your instrument with clients or staff in your agency or in another social work setting, you must consult with your field supervisor or relevant staff person and obtain consent of the agency. If you cannot interview your targeted population, colleagues may role-play the interviewees. Do not pilot test the instrument with close friends or family members, as this will not approximate a typical interview situation and will limit your ability to conduct a realistic interview and assess the interview process.

**In Paper 3, students demonstrate their competency in: (1) conducting a pilot test of an interview guide/questionnaire, (2) engaging in the informed consent process, (3) critically assessing the effectiveness of their developed instrument and the interview process (including sensitivity of their instrument to diverse groups—such as age, gender, ethnicity and sexual orientation) and, if necessary proposing modifications to gain the required information (data) to test the proposed hypotheses, and (4) proposing an effective research design to further inquiry into the research questions.**

**PAPER 3 ORGANIZATION**

1. Create an **Informed Consent** Section in which you:

(a) briefly describe the process or procedures you used for obtaining informed consent from the participants and how you explained that you will ensure the confidentiality of their data.

(b) address whether the participants raised any questions or concerns about the study, the interview process and/or their rights and your response.

2. Create a **Data Collection** Section in which you:

1. Briefly describe the overall interview process in the pilot-testing of your questionnaire (you do not need to discuss the interviews one-by-one unless there was a particular concern with one participant). Where did you conduct the interviews? How long did the interviews take? How did you introduce yourself and establish rapport? How did you terminate the interviews?

3. Create a **Preliminary Findings** Section in which you:

(a) Discuss how your preliminary data either support or fail to support each of your original hypotheses, and discuss whether you believe that, if you were to fully implement this study, your conclusions would or would not be similar. Explain the rationale for your assessment with reference to the literature.

4. Create a **Methodology Critique and Modifications** Section in which you:

(a) evaluate whether or not you were successful in obtaining the information necessary to address your specific research hypotheses. Identify what methodological factors either facilitated or hindered your ability to gain information from the participants.

1. describe two aspects of the questionnaire and/or interview process which you feel should be revised if you were to expand your current study and specify how you would change these aspects to more effectively address your research objectives.

5. Create a **Future Directions** Section in which you:

1. propose a follow up study to further address your research questions. Clearly state your research question (either the same or a modified version from your pilot). Consider the best way to address your research question- all methods and populations are available, consider feasibility. Describe your population of interest, sampling strategy, data collection method(s) and possible ethical and cultural competency concerns.
2. discuss how the design of your follow up study would improve on the limitations of your pilot. Critique the reliability and validity of your proposed study methodology.

6. Create an **Appendix** which includes:

the completed interview questionnaires with responses of the interviewees with names/identifiers removed; and a blank copy of your informed consent form.