

## FOR INSTRUCTORS

# SOAP Notes Discussion Prompts

*Five classroom-ready discussion questions to pair with the video.*

These prompts are designed to pair with the SOAP Notes video from The Social Work Progressive. They can be used as in-class discussion, asynchronous discussion board posts, small-group breakout activities, or short written reflections. Each prompt connects to at least one CSWE Core Competency and is appropriate for BSW and foundational MSW courses.

## How to Use

- Assign students to watch the SOAP Notes video before class or as part of a module.
- Choose one or more prompts below based on your learning objectives for the week.
- Encourage students to cite specific moments from the video in their responses.
- For online courses, post the prompts in your LMS discussion board with a 250 to 400 word response requirement and one peer reply.

### **PROMPT 1 Voice in the Subjective**

The video emphasizes preserving the client's voice in the Subjective section and keeping interpretation out of it. Describe a moment, either from a field experience, a practicum simulation, or a role play, when it felt difficult to capture a client's story without inserting your own interpretation. What made it difficult? What language or technique could help you stay in the client's voice while still writing a clinically useful note? Connect your answer to CSWE Competency 6 on engagement.

### **PROMPT 2 Objective vs. Assessment**

Consider this line: "The client is avoidant and not invested in treatment." Rewrite this line twice. First, rewrite it so it would fit in the Objective section using only observable, measurable data. Second, rewrite it so it would fit in the Assessment section as genuine clinical reasoning. Then explain in two to three sentences why the distinction matters for the client, the chart, and your future self reading the note.

### **PROMPT 3 Ethics in the Chart**

The video references NASW Code of Ethics standards 1.03 on informed consent and 1.05 on cultural competence as they apply to documentation. Pick one standard and describe a specific documentation choice (word selection, what to include, what to leave out) that would put that standard into practice. Then describe a choice that would violate it. Use a hypothetical client scenario to make your examples concrete.

### **PROMPT 4 The Pitfall You Are Most Likely to Make**

The video identifies six common SOAP note pitfalls. Which one do you think you are most likely to fall into and why? Be honest. What is a specific habit, structure, or self-check you could build into your documentation routine to catch yourself before that pitfall shows up in a real chart? Connect your answer to CSWE Competency 1 on ethical and professional behavior.

### **PROMPT 5 The Plan That Actually Works**

Review the Plan section in the video's annotated example. Identify three specific qualities that make that Plan strong. Then draft a Plan for a client you have worked with (real or hypothetical, de-identified) that demonstrates those same qualities. Your plan should name at least one measurable intervention, one safety consideration, and one coordination step with another provider or system.

### **Suggested Grading Rubric (optional)**

- Demonstrates clear understanding of the SOAP section being discussed (30%)
- Applies CSWE Competencies or NASW standards with specificity (25%)
- Uses a concrete example, not just abstract theory (25%)
- Writing is professional and free of documentation pitfalls (20%)