Final Project: Substance Presentation

For your culminating project, you will demonstrate what you have learned in *Introduction to Substance Abuse* by examining one specific substance and its relationship to individuals, communities, and systems. You will create a 10–12 slide PowerPoint presentation that integrates course concepts, credible research, and practical application. This project allows you to connect the science of substance use with the human, social, and policy factors that influence it.

Choose a substance category from Dare & Begun, Chapters 9–14:

Follow the link below to access the textbook chapters. Scroll down to locate the six general categories of substances and choose one that interests you for your Final Project: Substance Presentation. Read all sections within that chapter to build the foundation of your presentation. While the core content should come from this source, you are also expected to include additional research from credible, scholarly sources to strengthen and expand your presentation.

https://pressbooks.ulib.csuohio.edu/substancemisusepart1/

Chapter 9: Opioids
Chapter 10: Alcohol
Chapter 11: Stimulants
Chapter 12: Cannabinoids and Other Hallucinogenic and Dissociatives
Chapter 13: Sedative Hypnotics and CNS Depressants (other than alcohol)
Chapter 14: Inhalants, Steroids, Over-the-Counter and Prescription Medications

You will apply information from the textbook, lectures, and outside sources to explain key aspects of substance use, prevention, and recovery. Each slide will focus on a specific topic that reflects the course learning outcomes—such as understanding patterns of use, identifying risk and protective factors, analyzing systems and policy influences, exploring evidence-informed interventions, and reflecting on your own professional growth.

Your presentation should be clear, organized, and visually engaging. Use bullet points and visuals rather than heavy text, and cite all information using the APA 7th edition format on your final slide. This project is designed to show your ability to think critically about substance use within a broader social work context and to communicate your insights in a professional, evidence-based manner.

Slide/Section	Category	Description
1	**Title, your name, and chosen substance**	Clearly state your project title, include your full name, and identify the specific substance your presentation focuses on.
2–3	**Overview: prevalence, major risk and protective factors**	Summarize how common the substance use is and explain key risk factors that increase use and protective factors that reduce it.
4–5	**Systems and policy context: laws, public perception, or justice implications**	Explain how laws, policies, and public attitudes affect people who use this substance and what role the justice system may play.
6–7	**Evidence-informed prevention or recovery strategies**	Describe what research says works best to prevent or support recovery from this type of substance use.
8	**Assessment and coordination example**	Provide an example of how a social worker might assess someone's needs and coordinate care across services or systems.
9	**Evaluation considerations—how success is measured**	Explain how professionals know if prevention or treatment efforts are working, using realistic indicators of success.
10	**Reflection on personal or professional growth**	Share what you learned about yourself, your values, or the profession through this project.
11–12	**References and acknowledgments**	List your credible sources in APA format and thank anyone who helped or inspired your work.

Record 5–7 minutes of narration to summarize key talking points.

Submission Requirements

• File format: PowerPoint (.pptx) or other slide deck program.
• Length: 10–12 slides (not counting references/acknowledgements).
• Include citations in APA 7 format, but doesn't have to be TNR-12 or have a hanging indent.
• Submit through D2L Assignments (also can be used for Engage artifact, if applicable)

Grading Criteria (100 points total)

Criterion	Points	Description
Content Integration	25	Demonstrates synthesis of key learning outcomes and engagement exercises.
Application of Evidence	20	Draws accurately on research and practice frameworks.
Systems & Policy Insight	15	Identifies and evaluates relevant social, health, or justice systems.
Critical Reflection	20	Provides thoughtful, self-aware connection to professional development.
Presentation Quality	20	Organized, visually clear, correctly cited, and verbal presentation is professional in tone.

Total: 100 points (20% of final course grade)