As you think back to all that you have learned in the classroom and in your field placement so far, what would you consider to be the skills, knowledge, and theoretical frameworks that are most critical and important in your work as a generalist social worker? Another way to approach this is to consider the following: If you had to identify for the junior social work majors the most important things they need to consider/realize as they begin their field placement, what would these be?

I would suggest that you organize your discussion around the following general themes:

- The organizational context of practice
  - Working within and around the constraints placed on practice
  - Working with other professionals and other disciplines
  - Managing time and establishing priorities

- Engaging the client
  - Preparatory empathy
  - The client’s social reality/dealing with differences
  - Clear sense of role and purpose

- Assessment and contracting
  - They are both processes and products

- Middle/work phase
  - “When you help clients manage their feelings, you help them manage their problems and when you help them manage their problems you help them manage their feelings”
  - Demand for work
  - Recontracting
  - Empathy and the purposeful expression of feelings
  - Elaborating skills
  - Barriers to work within clients and/or their environment
  - Networking and the broker role
• Ending phase
  o Reality versus textbook
  o The worker’s feelings about ending

• Use of self/ the worker’s genuineness

For my information, I would like one member of each group to summarize the discussion and email it to me or give it to me in the next class. It can be in outline form and is not going to be graded or evaluated in any way.