Describe the Artifact

This assignment is a multi-part, interactive learning experience designed to help students explore Human Services and Personal Care careers through the lens of empathy, communication, and problem-solving. Students begin with daily starters and background information to build foundational understanding of human services roles and community support systems. They then rotate through three main tasks: creating an empathy-based video response to real-life school and out-of-school scenarios, participating in an AI-supported simulation as a Family Support Specialist to identify appropriate community resources, and completing *A Life Remembered*, a creative Canva-based project that introduces careers in funeral services, grief support, and mortuary science. Throughout the lesson, students engage with realistic scenarios, reflective prompts, and creative tools to practice understanding others' perspectives and applying professional skills used in human services careers. The assignment balances discussion, technology, creativity, and reflection while keeping expectations clear and age-appropriate.

Reflect on the Artifact

This assignment connects learning to students' lived experiences, emotional development, and real-world career pathways. Scenarios are grounded in situations students recognize from school, home, and their communities, making the content immediately relevant and meaningful. Instruction is delivered through multiple formats, including written background information, video examples, guided discussions, AI-supported simulations, and hands-on creative design, allowing students to access content in ways that match different learning preferences. The culminating tasks provide students with meaningful choice in how they demonstrate understanding—through video reflection, AI-based problem-solving, or visual design—while still requiring mastery of core concepts such as empathy, communication, and community support. These elements clearly demonstrate purposeful relevance, multiple means of access, and student choice.

Inspiration

How do basketball players stay cool during a game? They stand near the fans!
Why are frogs good at basketball? They can make jump shots!
Why did the basketball player get arrested? He shot the ball!

Learning Target

Today we will describe how Human Services careers support individuals & families so that I can apply empathy, communication, and problem-solving in real world situations. I will know I am successful when I can reflect on how Human Services professionals improve their communities.

AGENDA

- Daily Starter
- Background Information
- Simulation with AI
- Simulation with recording
- Closing meeting

TASKS

Daily Starter:

1. Click here for the Daily Starter Week 17: Day 1
2. Click here for the Daily Starter Week 17: Day 2: Community Resources
3. Click here for the Daily Starter Week 17: Day 3: (will only be assigned if you have me 3 days this week)

Background Information

1. Click here for background information on Human & Personal Care Services

Assignment

1. Click here for The Helping Hands Video
2. Click here for the Family Support Specialist AI Conversation
3. Click here for the Life Remembered Assignment

Closing Meeting:

1. If your class earns BINGO tokens, we will do the BINGO points now!

FAST FINISHERS

1. Free draw using recycled paper
2. Creative writing
3. You can do one of the fast finishers on the side wall
4. You can do free reading

Helping Hands Video Assignment

Empathy means being able to understand how someone else feels, even if you aren't feeling the same way. It's like putting yourself in their shoes for a moment. When you show empathy, you notice when someone is upset, frustrated, or excited, and you care about what they are going through. Empathy doesn't mean you have to fix their problems—it just means you listen, show kindness, and try to understand their point of view. Using empathy helps people feel supported and makes relationships stronger.

In this assignment, you are going to do THREE THINGS.

1. You are going to pick TWO scenarios from the options below. Read them carefully and decide which two you are going to address. One has to be an IN SCHOOL SCENARIO and one has to be an OUT OF SCHOOL SCENARIO.
2. You are going to **make a video that only the teacher will see of how you will address BOTH SCENARIOS in an way that demonstrates empathy toward and with the other person.**

3. In the video you are also going to:
   Give me a definition of empathy in your own words.
   We read about careers in counseling and social work. Now tell me WHY people in these fields need to have EMPATHY in this career.

To get full credit, your video needs to be AT LEAST TWO MINUTES LONG WITH AMAZING ways you demonstrated listening, support and empathy!!

Below are the scenarios. You get to choose two of them (one from in school and one from out of school) to address in your video.

💬 IN SCHOOL SCENARIOS

1. The Forgotten Homework

A classmate you normally talk to comes into class looking stressed. When the teacher starts collecting homework, they quietly tell you they forgot to do it because they had a really hard night at home. They look embarrassed and worried they'll get in trouble.
Empathy moment: Show how you would reassure them, help them calm down, or suggest what they could do next—without doing the homework for them.

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2. The Last Pick for a Group

Your class is forming groups for a project. One student is left standing alone while everyone else already has a team. They look down at the floor and seem uncomfortable, like this happens a lot.
Empathy moment: Demonstrate how you would invite them into your group in a kind way and help them feel welcome.

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3. The Bad Grade

When your teacher hands back a quiz, your friend flips theirs over quickly and tries to hide it. You can tell they're upset—they studied hard but still didn't get the grade they wanted. They say things like, "I'm just stupid," or "I can't do anything right."
Empathy moment: Show how you would respond to encourage them, remind them of their strengths, and help them feel supported.

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4. The Lunchtime Problem

You notice a student sitting alone at lunch, picking at their food and looking like they might cry. Normally they sit with a group, but today they are alone. Other students walk past without noticing.
Empathy moment: Show how you might gently check in, invite them to eat with you, or simply listen if they want to talk.

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5. Locker Trouble

Between classes, the hallway is loud and busy. A student near you keeps spinning their locker dial and pulling the handle, but it won't open. They're getting more frustrated and panicked because they need their science notebook for the next class.
Empathy moment: Show how you could help them stay calm, offer to get the teacher, or assist them without making them feel embarrassed.

🏡 OUT-OF-SCHOOL SCENARIOS

6. A Friend Left Out

You're at a birthday party with several friends. During a group game, one friend keeps raising their hand to join but no one includes them. Eventually they step back and pretend they don't care, but you can tell they're hurt.
Empathy moment: Show how you would include them in a way that feels natural and makes them feel like they belong.

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7. The Lost Pet

Your neighbor is walking around their yard calling their pet's name. They look scared and upset, and you can tell they've been crying. When you ask what's wrong, they explain their pet ran away earlier in the day.
Empathy moment: Show how you would offer comfort and practical help—like offering to look around the neighborhood—without making promises you can't control.

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8. The Canceled Plans

You and a friend planned something fun for after school—maybe going to a park or getting a snack. On the day of, they text you to say they have to cancel because something difficult is happening at home. They sound stressed and disappointed.
Empathy moment: Demonstrate a response that shows understanding instead of frustration, and expresses support without prying for private details.

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9. Sports Team Mistake

During a game or practice, one of your teammates misses a pass, trips, or makes an error that allows the other team to score. Other teammates are frustrated, and the student clearly feels embarrassed and guilty.
Empathy moment: Show how you would lift them up, help them refocus, or remind the team that mistakes happen.

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10. The Quiet Friend

At a sleepover or hangout, one friend who is usually talkative becomes very quiet and withdrawn. They sit off to the side while everyone else plays or talks. You can tell something is bothering them, but they haven't said anything.
Empathy moment: Demonstrate a gentle, private check-in and how you'd respect their feelings—whether they want to talk or not.

Family Support Specialist AI

Welcome to this Station!

1. You are going to c**hoose one** of the following Scenarios/Cards.
2. You are going to use the information on these cards to interact with a chatbot
3. Your goal is to find **community resources** to solve the dilemmas on these cards
4. You earn points on this assignment when I am able to see **QUALITY interactions** on the chatbot. Remember I can see the entire chat history. So if you are thinking of asking the chatbot information that is off topic or out in left field--DON'T. It will cost you your grade.
5. Use the information on the scenario/cards below to help you get started in the chatbot. If the chatbot asks you information you don't know, you can make up a **reasonable answer** to help you get to the **community resources**. Remember, that's the point of the chatbot is to discover community resources to help with the dilemma on the scenario/cards.

You will be graded on the types of community resources you are able to find. Your next daily starter is going to be the community resources you were able to find for your scenario so I suggest you either remember the resources or jot them down somewhere!!

Scenario #1: Childcare

A single parent needs childcare while working two jobs. The children are ages 2, 3, 7 and 9. One job works from 7am to 3pm and another job is on the weekends from 2pm to 6pm. They can't afford a lot for childcare but they do qualify for medicaid support. They can pay maybe $200-$300 per month on child care but rely mostly on medicaid and SNAP benefits. The parent has an aunt that is able help most weekends. The aunt is old and if the children are sick, she can't take care of the children because the aunt can't afford to get sick.

Scenario #2: Eviction

A student's family was evicted and needs temporary housing. There are five people in the family. Mom, dad, the student who is a 7th grader and the student's two younger siblings who are in 3rd grade and 1st grade. They do not have any pets. Mom has a job as a waitress and dad has to drive her there but then she has to walk six miles home from work because dad doesn't pick her up because he takes the car to go find a job out of

town. He hasn't been able to find a job. The kids used to ride a bus home but now without a house, they don't know where to go.

Scenario #3: Transportation

An elderly grandparent needs transportation to doctor appointments. The grandparent lives with the students' family. Both the parents work full time. Grandparent has medical challenges and is no longer able to drive themselves to and from the store or to doctor appointments. They no longer have a driver's license. They have doctor appointments one day each week and no one can drive them to and from the appointments.

Scenario #4: Teen Mental Health

A teen is struggling with mental health and needs affordable therapy. The teen is depressed because they don't feel like they have friends at school. They eat alone at lunch and no one will sit by them. They have told their parents and their parents don't care if they come to school or not so the student only comes to school one day a week. They have a counselor at school but the counselor can only see them when they come to school. They do not have insurance.

When you are ready, you will Click the Magic School button on the left hand side of the screen to join the chatbot room. If it asks for the join room code it is: QYtvzQ The first thing you will do is type the first sentence of your scenario card. For example: A teen is struggling with mental health and needs affordable therapy. You and the chatbot will go from there. You may need to refer back to this page for details that the chatbot might need to help you create your community resource list.

A Life Remembered Assignment

You are going to explore careers in **funeral services, mortuary science, and grief support** by designing a respectful memorial program for a fictional person. You will show empathy, organization, and attention to detail. Part of working as a funeral home director is to honor the deceased person's wishes, while at the same time working with sad family members and creating a beautiful service.

1. You will choose one of the following fictional people.
2. They all have life highlights and a memorial request that you have to put into the funeral program.
3. You will use Canva to create a beautiful funeral program that includes all of their wishes.
4. When you are ready to turn this assignment in, **DO NOT SHARE IT WITH ME FROM CANVA.** YOU WILL NOT BE GRADED.
5. When you click this link, you are in my Canva Classroom and I can see your work there: A Life Remembered Assignment.

Links to an external site.

6. You might have to type in "funeral program" in the search bar of canva to get started.

Choose one of the following people to create your Funeral Program



Life Story Cards for Funeral Program Project

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1. Marisa J. Holloway

Life Highlights:
- Elementary school librarian who loved reading to children
- Fostered rescue cats for a local shelter
- Known for her calm personality and warm smile

Memorial Request:
Include a stack of books or a favorite children's book cover; soft colors that reflect her gentle nature.

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2. Christopher "CJ" Langford

Life Highlights:
• High school basketball coach for 20+ years
• Organized neighborhood sports for kids every summer
• Loved hiking and outdoor adventures
Memorial Request:
Feature a basketball or hiking trail silhouette; include a motivating quote about teamwork.

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3. Evelyn “Evie” Duarte

Life Highlights:
• Graphic designer who created posters for local festivals
• Enjoyed painting sunsets and teaching art workshops
• Known for encouraging others to express themselves
Memorial Request:
Use bright, artistic colors and incorporate a small paintbrush or sunset theme.

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4. Marcus D. Whitmore

Life Highlights:
• Firefighter who served his city for 15 years
• Community volunteer who taught fire safety to schools
• Loved hosting backyard barbecues for friends
Memorial Request:
Include a fire service emblem or symbol of bravery; warm red or gold tones.

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5. Lila S. Nguyen

Life Highlights:
• Pediatric dentist who helped children overcome fear of dentistry
• Enjoyed baking and sharing treats with family and coworkers
• Grew award-winning roses in her backyard
Memorial Request:
Add a rose motif and gentle pastel colors; include a short message about kindness.

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6. Benjamin R. Castillo

Life Highlights:
• Musician who played guitar at farmers markets and cafés

• Taught free beginner lessons to teens
• Loved camping and songwriting around the fire
Memorial Request:
Incorporate a guitar outline or musical notes; earth-tone colors.

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7. Dorothy “Dot” Mercer

Life Highlights:
• Owned a small bakery famous for its pies
• Sponsored local food drives and donated extras to shelters
• Enjoyed knitting blankets for newborns
Memorial Request:
Use a baking or quilt pattern theme; simple, homey design elements.

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8. Isaac T. Redfeather

Life Highlights:
• National park guide and wildlife educator
• Passionate about conservation and teaching children about nature
• Skilled photographer of birds and landscapes
Memorial Request:
Include nature motifs like feathers, trees, or mountains; muted greens and browns.

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9. Serena P. Callahan

Life Highlights:
• Emergency room social worker specializing in crisis support
• Known for her calm voice and comforting words
• Enjoyed yoga, meditation, and peaceful morning walks
Memorial Request:
Use soothing colors and imagery such as a sunrise or lotus flower.

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10. Roland J. Brooks

Life Highlights:
• Carpenter who built playgrounds and community benches
• Mentor for apprentices learning woodworking
• Loved crossword puzzles and weekend fishing trips

Memorial Request:
Incorporate wood grain textures or carpentry tools; classic serif fonts.

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11. Anita Flores-Mendez

Life Highlights:
• Middle school counselor who supported hundreds of students
• Organized kindness campaigns and peer-support groups
• Loved salsa dancing and cooking for her big family
Memorial Request:
Use warm, vibrant colors; include an uplifting message about helping others.

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12. Samuel “Sam” Donnelly

Life Highlights:
• Long-distance truck driver who traveled across the country
• Known for sending postcards home from each state
• Loved classic rock and restoring old radios
Memorial Request:
Map or road imagery is encouraged; consider a radio or musical theme.
