Outline of a genogram paper

Made with Genogram Builder

The parts of a written analysis of a genogram, in the order most courses ask for them. Replace each line with your own paragraph.

Introduction

1. State whose genogram this is, how many generations it covers and when the information was gathered.
2. Say how the facts were collected, for example from interviews with named relatives, from documents or from memory.
3. Name the question the paper answers, such as a pattern you expected to find or a relationship you wanted to understand.

The genogram and its key

1. Place the genogram as a figure with a number and a caption, and refer to it by that number in the text.
2. State that the symbols follow McGoldrick, Gerson and Petry, and include the key with the figure.
3. Explain any line or colour of your own that the standard notation does not provide.

The structure of the family

1. Describe the family generation by generation, beginning with the oldest, with names, dates and places.
2. Note the marriages, separations and divorces, the children of each union and any adoption, fostering or loss.
3. Describe the households and who lives in each one today.

Patterns across the generations

1. Describe what repeats, such as an illness, an occupation, an age at marriage, a migration or a kind of relationship.
2. Describe the emotional relationships and where closeness, distance, conflict and cut-offs cluster.
3. Describe the triangles, the roles people fill and the events that fall in the same years.

Analysis

1. Connect the patterns to the ideas of the course, with a citation for each idea you use.
2. Separate what the family told you from what you concluded, and say which is which.
3. Consider what the chart leaves out and whose account of the family is missing.

Reflection and conclusion

1. Say what drawing the genogram changed in your understanding of the family, or of yourself.
2. Say how you would use a genogram in your own practice, and what you would do differently next time.
3. Return to the question you asked in the introduction and answer it in a paragraph.

References and appendix

1. List every source in the style your course requires, with the notation reference among them.
2. Add the interview notes, the consent you obtained and any earlier draft of the chart as an appendix.