Paper-1 Assignment:

**Patient Stories:**
*Explorations of Failed Healthcare*

**Outline (1-page) due:** 12:00 Noon, Wednesday, October 12, 2007 – via Blitzmail to your TA.

**Final Draft (5 pages) due:** 12:00 Noon, Wednesday, October 19, 2007 – via Blitzmail to Karen.Thurston@Dartmouth.EDU PLUS hardcopy to MacLean 209.

In this paper, you will be exploring the challenges facing healthcare today by telling the story of a patient whose needs have not been met satisfactorily by the current system. You’ll investigate what errors or omissions were made, compare treatment with recognized practice guidelines, and recommend changes that could improve treatment of similar cases in the future.

1. Select a patient whose story you want to tell. You may choose someone from media reports or someone from your personal experience. NB: if you choose a personal story, be sure to use fictitious names/places in your story to insure patient confidentiality.
2. Research the patient’s story and write a narrative of what happened. (20%)
3. Analyze and define needs illuminated by your story, including errors, omissions, any areas of suboptimal treatment of the patient. (15%)
4. Background: research and describe relevant anatomy/physiology/disease state. If a disaster victim, research issues influencing survival. If a healthcare system problem, research the function of the system. (15%)
5. Research and describe current best practice for treatment, or best system practice. (15%)
6. Research and describe innovations in technology and/or system improvements that could be used to address your patients’ needs in the future. (15%)
7. Recommend changes in medical practice that could improve the management of similar cases. (15%)
8. Sources (5%) - For assistance, see http://www.dartmouth.edu/~sources/
In your **outline** please describe:

a. The story/flaws you are going to address.
b. Why is this story effective in illuminating particular needs in healthcare?
c. The approach you are going to take to address this story, analysis, research and recommendations
d. Sources you intend to use.

**Recommendations:**
Good writing reflects both organization and imagination. Papers in ENGS13 tend to become complex due to the diverse topics that you’ll need to explore. To help maintain good organization, you are strongly encouraged to

1. Create an outline before you begin writing,
2. Use outline topics as headings to organize your paper,
3. Use the paragraph as unit of organization.

Referred to as the APA style, this report style is widely used for scientific papers as well as for business reports. This method not only helps the writer stay focused and organized but also helps the reader understand the structure of the paper.

If you have any questions, please let me know or discuss with your TA.

Good luck!
Prof Robbie