Predict:
Before starting this assignment I wasn’t sure what to expect. Even as a nursing student I wasn’t exactly sure what a social worker did and what their scope of practice entitled. I feel that a lot of people would agree with me. It is always known that social workers are part of the health care team but never knew exactly what they did and how they could benefit a patient’s care in different situations.

Jeff July – Senior nursing student at Ohio University
“I think social workers work with case management to help with care outside the hospital. Social workers help find ways for patients to be able to pay for their prescriptions, therapy, food, etc. I think that way because the term social worker leads me to think of someone out in the community.”

Daniel Schmidt – Second year dental student at Ohio State University
“I think social workers help underprivileged people find ways to improve their lives through a variety of ways. This might include helping people change different aspects of their lives such as improving their health, helping them find employment, or finding better opportunities for children. I think this because social workers sometimes work in the underprivileged areas of a city, which makes me believe that they are trying to improve the lives of people there.”

Kara Roche – First year physician’s assistant student at Ohio Dominican University
“Social workers help for the common good and well being of the people. Social workers help people in need, usually of lower socioeconomical status. When I think of social workers, I think of people who meet with foster children and foster parents. I’m aware this is only a small portion of what social workers do, but it is just what comes to mind when I think of a social worker probably due to social workers role in movies and other media.”

Katie Flanagan – Senior nursing student at Ohio University
“A social worker is someone who helps people overcome difficulties in their lives by providing them with resources in their community. This is just the understanding I have of social workers from seeing them in the hospital with patients.”
Ashley Healy – Junior health sciences major at Ohio University
“I think that social workers have a responsibility to help children, teenagers, adults, and their families when issues arise that can't be resolved without the help of a professional. I believe it is their responsibility because they have the knowledge and resources necessary to make morally correct decisions in the lives of others.”

Hannah Ziesmann – Senior art history major at Texas Christian University
“I think social workers help people, or family's improve their current conditions. Finding kids homes if they're orphaned, ex-criminals places to work, divorced families handing of kids etc etc etc. I'd assume a big part is probably protecting people who can't really do it for themselves or don't have the same advantages as everyone else; homeless, children, people with physical disabilities. Making sure they have basic human rights.”

Haley Willis – Second year dental student at Ohio State University
“When I think of a social worker, I think of someone who counsels and/or teaches people that are struggling in some way or another. I believe social workers can work in a variety of different settings. I say this because I have heard of social workers being associate with anything from children that need help in school, couples attempting to mend a relationship, and individuals dealing with substance abuse. All in all, a social worker, to me, is someone who not only work with people to guide them through tough situations but also teaches them how to cope and handle these situations in the future.”

Anne Chapel – Senior nursing student at Ohio University
“I think social workers assess the big picture of a person and further more a families situation. They coordinate resources between disciplines. I think this because of my experiences through student nursing.”

Josh Wagner – Senior high school student at Taylor High School in Cincinnati
“To me a social work is one who helps the people in a community. A social work usually helps lower income families with financial or family problems. They are usually hired by the government but can sometimes be hired by a private organization dedicated to helping the community.”

Megan Trapasso – Senior nursing student at Ohio University
“A social worker can work in a variety of situations. A social worker can help children that are being abused, families in poverty, homeless people, people with mental health issues, and people going through domestic violence. They help someone cope with problems that occur in everyday life. Social workers can be a case manager for the patient. A social worker can work
with a family or an individual. Social workers work with children and protect them from abuse. I’ve gathered this through my clinical experiences. When I went through my home health clinical rotation I worked with a social worker and got to see what they do.”

**What a social worker actually does:**
The Social Work Profession

- Social workers help individuals, families, and groups restore or enhance their capacity for social functioning, and work to create societal conditions that support communities in need.
- The practice of social work requires knowledge of human development and behavior, of social, economic and cultural institutions, and of the interaction of all these factors.
- Social workers help people of all backgrounds address their own needs through psychosocial services, advocacy, and resource brokering.
- Social workers help people overcome some of life’s most difficult challenges: poverty, discrimination, abuse, addiction, physical illness, divorce, loss, unemployment, educational problems, disability, and mental illness. They help prevent crises and counsel individuals, families, and communities to cope more effectively with the stresses of everyday life.
- Social workers can be employed in counseling centers, hospitals, schools, mental health agencies, prisons, grassroots organizations, senior clinics, military, and more.

**Reflect:**
After interviewing ten people I discovered that people knew more than I had initially anticipated about social workers. Many people had a good idea about the scope of practice of social workers or at least were beginning to get on the right track. It seems that everyone has one specific idea of what a social worker can do but don’t have the overall picture of all the ways social workers can benefit patient care.