

## UNIT 6 DISCUSSION BOARD SAMPLE POSTS

### INITIAL POST

Hi everyone, here is my first draft of the academic essay. It focuses on the opioid addiction crisis.

Prescription pain pill addiction has become a serious public health issue and is one that must be effectively dealt with or it will only continue to escalate. The big question is how did America's health care system allow itself to be led astray and how did the opiate painkiller epidemic become so large?

Addiction is caused by many things. Some people are born addicted because their mother or father was a drug addict, and some people get hooked on drugs because their friends are hooked. Peer pressure is another big factor as well. People also get hooked when they get into bad accidents that cause them long term pain, or people can get addicted when they have a chronic health problem.

Another factor in the opioid addiction problem is that drug companies are really pushing the sales of these drugs, especially medications such as OxyContin, oxycodone, and fentanyl. Pharmaceutical companies pushed these new wonder drugs. You see ads on television offering these pills up as solutions to pain and I bet doctors have been given kickbacks too. .

I also think that we have gotten used to taking a pill for everything and this has led to the over prescribing and abuse of opiate pain medications. In a short amount of time a patient can become dependent on prescription pain medications and be well on their way to a long-term addiction problem. Physicians and the healthcare industry now face how to curb opiate abuse and more effective manners of weaning patients off of these medications and providing alternative solutions for their pain treatment.

My question is, is my draft focused enough on the cause of this increase in addiction and am I showing you that what I think is causing it is actually causing more people to get addicted to opioids?

Thanks,

Kellen

**Commented [JV1]:** Notice that Kellen's draft focuses on one specific change and attempts to explain what has caused the change. It is not perfect and needs work, but it is a first draft and the feedback he gets on it will help him to improve his ideas and focus.

## RESPONSE TO INITIAL POST

Kellen, you're really doing great with this topic. I can tell that you are dealing with the issue of opioid addiction, which is a big change in America. I do think that your thesis could still be stronger. I remember that the Unit 5 reading assignment suggested we try to be as specific as possible, so could you start with something like The increase in opioid addictions has been caused by A, B and C, with those factors (A B and C) being what you think caused it to happen? You also ask whether you are focused on showing what caused the increase. I can tell that you are dealing with causes like the push from the pharmacy industry, which makes sense, but that first body paragraph to me seems off topic. It's telling us what causes anyone to get addicted to anything. I would take that out and stay focused on what specific factors caused the increase in opioid addiction.

Hope that helps you out. You have a great draft!

Charlie

**Commented [JV2]:** Charlie's response offers helpful suggestions for improving the thesis and the focus of the draft itself. Charlie's recommendation to remove a section is really helpful because that information on causes of addiction is not relevant to a paper addressing the specific causes of the increase in opioid addiction.