

UNIT 4 SAMPLE DB POSTS

INITIAL POST

Hi, everyone, here's my draft. It's rough, but let me know what I can do to make it better. I took your advice to focus on gangs, and I want to help people in this situation. I'm just not sure my main point is clear or that I am using my personal experience effectively.

The teenage years of life can be tough and more teens are turning more and more to gangs to get them through these tough years. I know my kids faced this when they were teens. When our youth feel that they are not part of the family structure, or they have no sense of belonging, they may look outside the home for support. The search for that missing love and sense of belonging can sometimes be found by joining a gang.

So how can we minimize this desire to find family structure elsewhere? As parents, we can give our children good family structure, by making sure there is unconditional acceptance, gracious redirection when mistakes are made, and by providing for their needs unconditionally. I also think we need to take a personal assessment of our family situation. Do your kids disobey you at the cost of punitive measures? Do they speak with a new slang? Are they wearing the same colors every day? Are they hanging out with new friends? If the answer is no, then then we may just may want to make our family unit stronger. If the answer is yes, Then we may need to reclaim our sons and daughters

We as parents must become more aware of our children and relate our self-awareness to them. We must make sure that what we are saying to our children is supported by what we do. As fathers could we take our children to the places we go? If no, then maybe we need to reconsider our priorities. Do we support them in activities that might develop their social skills? After all, it is our participation with them in these activities that sends the clear message that we practice what we preach. By recognizing these contributing factors and shoring up areas where we have fallen short in meeting the needs of our children. Parents can begin to remove the attraction of gang life and return the allure of family once again.

My question is what can I do to help my audience with this problem?

Thanks

James

RESPONSE TO INITIAL POST

James, I think you have a great topic and I do think you are writing to help parents to keep their children out of gangs. One thing I learned in this unit's reading is to try to stay focused on one main point. I think you may be trying to help the audience to both figure out if their kids are in

Commented [JV1]: Notice that the student writer posts a draft that isn't perfect. No draft is going to be. They will have problems with focus, will need revision and editing, and you may feel like you can't possibly show your draft to anyone in this shape. Don't feel that way. This is what writing really looks like in its early stages and it's best to get feedback from others to see what you can do to make it better!

Commented [JV2]: Notice how Makayla's suggestions are constructive, helpful, and specific. She identifies what she sees as a weakness in the draft but more importantly, she suggests specific ways that James could improve his draft. She doesn't just praise him. She helps him to see the draft through the audience's eyes and to see ways that he could make it more effective.

gangs and help them figure out how to solve the problem if they are. That seems like two main points. Would your blog post be stronger if you stayed focused on just showing your audience of parents what they can do to help their kids stay out of gangs? I also wonder about personal experience. You mention your kids facing this problem, but maybe focus the blog post on what you did specifically with your kids that helped them to stay out of gangs. If you do that, maybe that will help the audience more. I know that if I were a parent in this situation, I would want to know what you did and how it helped.

Hope the suggestions help!

Makayla