



CM107 Discussion Board Sample Post

Unit 1 Discussion Board

INITIAL POST:

Hi everyone, I'm Karin Eastwood. I'm a working mom of 2 girls ages 11 and 14. When I'm not working as a receptionist, I'm involved in sports with my kids, but you can also find me going to yard sales and auctions and then redoing furniture I find. We just bought a house and I'm busy turning it into a home. I'm studying to be a paralegal and maybe one day I'll go to law school. I have always wanted to help others who are in trouble and need assistance.

As far as my writing is concerned, I always have trouble with getting my ideas down on the page and keeping things focused. This causes me to doubt myself and to avoid writing, if I can help it. My goal is to learn how to write without procrastinating and to figure out how to make my writing make sense, as well as not go all over the place. I know that I should do things like outlining, but I never seem to do that and it shows. My Hawkes Writing Assessment also reminded me I have trouble with grammar, especially fragments. I know that if I use resources like the PG Writing Center that that can help, but I also learned from the Unit 1 Reading that good writing is about writing for your audience and having a main point, so maybe if I learned more about that and how to better edit, I won't have as many worries. I do know that I will be writing a lot of papers for this class and that I will be spending most of my time writing briefs as a paralegal, so I really need to improve my skills, sooner than later.

What do you think I can do to get started when I write, without being nervous and procrastinating?

RESPONSE TO INITIAL POST:

Hi, Karin. Nice to meet you. I hope you are enjoying getting your new house started. Don't try to do it all at once. As far as writing is concerned, I too have a problem with losing focus. I do remember from high school, though, that outlining does help. I even do that when I am writing memos at work, so I keep my thoughts organized. Before I do that, though, I just think about why I'm writing. If I'm writing to tell everyone about a change in insurance for the company, I think about that and about what I need to tell the people I'm writing to and that helps me to stay focused. The Unit 1 reading says good writing is complete and I think that's a good way of looking at it--do you give your audience what they need and leave other things out? I also learned a long time ago that you have to be willing to make mistakes and then make changes, so I do a lot of erasing and starting over, but if I plan what I need to write, that helps me stay focused. Do you spend a lot of time revising when you write? If not, the Writing Center has some helpful information that you can use to turn whatever you write into even more focused and effective writing.

Lakendra Doten

RESPONSE TO FOLLOW UP:

Thanks, Lakendra. I never thought of that, that revising could make things a lot better. To be honest, when I write, I usually write and then am done with it, but I guess revising would help me to make changes if things aren't right, right? How do you actually revise?

Commented [1]: Notice how this successful initial post meets length requirements, answers all questions, refers to the Unit reading, and asks a relevant open-ended question to help classmates to respond back effectively.

Commented [2]: Notice how this successful response to an initial post is well developed, advances the discussion by addressing the classmate's concerns and asking questions that are relevant and get the classmate to consider relevant issues.

Commented [3]: This successful follow up response engages with the question the classmate asked and continues to advance the discussion.