

SAMPLE DISCUSSION POST:

UNIT 3

*Please note that this is a **sample** Discussion post to help inspire and guide your own original writing of the assignment. Your assignment does not need to look exactly like the sample, as this sample is just a possible response to the assignment prompt. Be sure to review the reading and grading rubric, complete each task in the instructions, and contact the instructor with any questions.*

DISCUSSION POST:

Greetings everyone,

For this week's Discussion, I am interested in the problem of homelessness here in Portland, Oregon, much of which is a result of soaring housing prices. While it is not the worst in the nation, the homeless population here is significant and noticeable given the medium size of the city. The rapid increase in rent is a direct cause – many people are simply priced out of their home. Of those in the community, the homeless themselves are the most affected, and city government is in the best position to do something about the problem.

Given that housing prices (both to purchase and rent a home) is the issue, there are two possible ways to address it: increase supply (thus lowering demand and, in turn, price) or the put controls on the cost of rent in the city. The second option is the easier of the two, as it would require passage of a law and not the building of more homes, which is prevented by zoning laws, cost, lack of available land, etc.

The largest challenge to implementing rent control in the city is the influence of powerful landlords and property management companies. They have been very effective at stopping any discussion at the City Council level of rent control due to aggressive lobbying.

I found the Purdue University Global Writing Center readings on argumentative writing and developing a thesis really helpful, particularly the idea that we can use research questions to come up with a thesis statement. In this week's Learning Activity, I created the following thesis statement: In order to decrease the homeless population, the Portland City Council must implement rent control.

Based upon my thesis, my question is this: Does my thesis do enough to demonstrate that rising rents are leading to an increase in homelessness in Portland?

Eric

References

Purdue University Global Writing Center. (2018). From topic to research question to thesis. CM 220 Unit 3 reading.

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RESPONSE POST:

Hi Eric,

I had no idea about the issues in Portland related to the cost of housing and homelessness. I live in South Dakota and have not heard anything about that issue here, but we have far fewer people in our only cities (Rapid City and Sioux Falls) and a lot of small towns around them both, so maybe that helps keep the cost of housing down.

I wanted to see if this was an issue in other cities and found an article on the website for *Forbes* magazine about it. It seems to be a problem in a lot of other cities, too, according to Gudell (2017).

There is some interesting information in this article, and I recommend that you read it – there is nothing about rent controls in it, but it has some content about the need for more housing, and it seems that Houston has made a lot of progress on that issue. Of course, all of that additional housing that has been built may have made the city more prone to flooding.

You have a very interesting topic and I hope that you stick with it. Your thesis makes sense, but as the *Forbes* article states, the evidence might not be on your side. I look forward to seeing where your work with this goes in the rest of the class.

Haley

References

Gudell, S. (2017, August 14). Rising rents mean larger homeless population. *Forbes*. Retrieved from <https://www.forbes.com/sites/zillow/2017/08/14/rising-rents-mean-larger-homeless-population/#4d6c4e2448d2>