

SAMPLE DISCUSSION POST:

UNIT 7

*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:

Hi everyone,

As I looked at my thesis and ideas from past posts and assignments this week, I thought back to several things brought up in the readings. The reading “Essay Structure” mentioned that essays generally flow from general to specific or specific to general. My essay seems to fit the general to specific best since it begins with ways in which students are bullied as a whole then examines bullying targeting special needs students as well as a specific way to address this problem. I made some changes to my thesis based on the feedback I received in units 5 and 6, too.

Here is my thesis statement and four main ideas I plan to include in my essay:

Thesis: Despite assertions that bullying is just kids being kids, the behavior actually comes from not understanding differences, disabilities, and specialness – a problem parents, educators, and others who work with children can use fiction to solve.

Main point 1: People who work with children need to understand why bullying takes place and how to address it because it is far more extensive and brutal than many know.

Main point 2: While bullying occurs everywhere, children with disabilities experience it more frequently.

Main point 3: Educating children will make them more empathetic and create a safer learning environment.

Main point 4 (rival hypothesis and rebuttal): Parents and educators may feel that the other should have the responsibility of stopping bullying; they may shy away from handling issues that they feel unprepared to deal with, but since this issue affects everyone, all have to be involved in the solution.

Body paragraph:

While bullying occurs everywhere, children with disabilities experience it more frequently. Many student populations with differences are bullied at a higher rate than the general population. In 2013-14, the average of special populations in schools

nationwide included 35% learning disabled, 21% with speech or language issues, 13% other impairment and 8% Autism as well as multiple other conditions is smaller groups (NCES, 2016). These numbers suggest the seriousness and importance of considering differences in school settings. Bullying based on perceptions of difference could affect a considerable population considering the variety of unique student concerns. For example, children with autism are 3 times more likely to be bullied than peers. Children with epilepsy and medical conditions like cerebral palsy are more likely to be bullied and called names than their peers (Stopbullying.org, 2018).

What other counter arguments might people have? How can they be rebutted?

References

Essay structure. (2018). CM220 Unit 7 readings.

National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). (2016, May). Children and youth with disabilities. http://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator_cgg.asp

Stopbullying.gov. (2018). Bullying and children and youth with disabilities and special health needs. <https://www.stopbullying.gov/at-risk/groups/special-needs/bullyingtipsheet.pdf> and <https://www.stopbullying.gov/at-risk/groups/special-needs/>

Kacey

*Please note that this is a **sample** Discussion response to help inspire and guide your own responses to classmates. Your response 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.*

RESPONSE POST:

Hi Kacey,

This topic really needs attention. My niece struggles with bullying at school because she keeps defending her friends, one of whom has a physical disability. The resources you cited in the body paragraph especially provide good insight into the higher rate of bullying for children with special needs.

The thesis confused me a little. Have you thought about how you can clarify what you plan to discuss and how? The course materials mentioned that a thesis is a contract with your reader, so the clarity would help make that “contract” more specific. What about something like this, which focuses on something that should be done in your particular school district, given that education policy is usually made on a local level:

The X School District should require English classes to read a book dealing with disability because the conversations these books raise help to reduce bullying and encourage inclusion.

Could you even focus on an age target, like middle school?

In terms of counter arguments, have you considered teacher workload? They already have so much to do. Also, what about kids learning to problem solve?

The body paragraph has a good topic sentence and integrates research to support your claim that kids with disabilities are bullied more frequently. Remember PIE, though; you ended with a cited piece of information. End with a sentence of your own that helps to wrap up the paragraph and look ahead to the next one, as suggested in this week's reading about transitions.

Overall, you're on a good path. I can't wait to see the next step!

Viv