

SAMPLE DISCUSSION POST:

UNIT 8

*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 classmates,

I have a partial draft with an introduction, a revision of the paragraph I shared last week, and two other body paragraphs.

Imagine being a mother and constantly receiving messages that your daughter should be “put down” or that you should have had an abortion because the child is “defective” and “drain on society.” A woman whose child has severe cranial-facial abnormalities started a campaign on Twitter to allow users to flag disability hate speech. Due to her work, Twitter recently added hate speech towards the disabled to their reporting feature. 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. Therefore, I believe that the K8 School District should require middle school English classes to read a book dealing with disability because the conversations these books raise help to reduce bullying and encourage inclusion.

Bullying is a broad concern because schools serve a variety of special populations. 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 in 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).

I chose to start my draft with a scenario that can let my audience feel that they are personally impacted by the issue of bullying, a technique mentioned in the “Introduction Techniques” podcast. Since my audience would be involved with children in various ways, I think this personal touch can add my persuasion through pathos. I also revised my thesis and the end of the first body paragraph based on Viv’s suggestions last week—thank you!

How can I best ensure my introduction sets the proper tone for the rest of the essay?

Kacey

References

- Clements, K. (2018). *Introduction techniques* [Audio podcast]. <https://kuportal-a.akamaihd.net/ascmedia/wc/podcasts/36introductiontechniques.pdf>.
- 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/>

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RESPONSE POST:

Hi Kacey,

I enjoyed reading the paragraphs from your paper. Your introduction startled me, but it was very effective. Identifying the name of the mother would enable us to relate better to the story. Beyond that, adding additional specific details – such as examples of the various conditions you mention – would support your paragraph better.

I did also notice some use of first and second person. For more on staying in third person, see the Unit 8 reading “Point of View.” Just take out the “I believe” statement and the thesis will be ready to go! I’m really excited to see the finished version of this.

Another tip that I remember my CM107 instructor mentioning is that you want to end your body paragraphs with an idea of your own instead of one cited from a source. What is your wrap-up point you want to make about the higher incidences of bullying for those with special needs that could tie back into your thesis?

Tom

References

- Point of view. (2018). CM220 Unit 8 readings.