

# SAMPLE DISCUSSION POST:

## UNIT 9

*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,

I have made a few PowerPoint presentations in the past but never felt very sure about my design choices. I'm attaching my draft advocating the need to use fiction to teach middle school children about difference and reduce bullying of special needs kids.

I would welcome any feedback, but one question I have is whether my presentation is too text-heavy. I know we are not supposed to include speaker's notes, but I wonder if using some voice-over narration instead of text on slides would make the presentation more compelling. I think I know how to do that, but I am a little scared to try.

Kacey

**NOTE: THE SAMPLE PRESENTATION DRAFT IS LINKED IN THE DISCUSSION INSTRUCTIONS.**

*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,

I really like your draft. This has a lot of wonderful images and graphs in it, and the message is clear. I will start by addressing the questions in this week's discussion instructions, and then I will tackle your question about the amount of text in the presentation.

- What is the main message of the digital media presentation? The main message is clearly spelled out on the "solution" slide. Putting your thesis there was a great idea!
- Who is the target audience and how might they respond to the presentation's text and visuals? The target audience seems to be school administrators and teachers since you are trying to get them to require teaching a book about disability in middle school classes. I assume this would have to be approved by the school board.

- What are the strengths of the presentation? As I mentioned above, I love the images, including the cover art of the novels you discuss. You also have great statistics in here about the growing number of special needs kids in schools and the impact that bullying has on them.
- What are at least two areas that need improvement? I noticed that some font might be enlarged to make the text more readable. The “Creating Effective Power Point Presentations” webinar included in the Unit 9 Learning Activities suggested using 24-28 point font size. Also, while you had detailed references slides (nice job with the APA formatting!), the images also needed to be cited on the individual slides with in-text citations. I think the instructions for the assignment also mentioned putting the Creative Commons logo on slides where you use images from that site. Finally, I wonder if adding a conclusion slide would be helpful? The last slide on the Choose Kind pledge is great, but it seems more like a “body” slide than an ending point for your argument. Maybe there is quote from *Wonder* you could include?
- Identify one visual design strategy from our Readings that your classmate used especially well or could apply to enhance the presentation. I really liked the slide with the picture that took up the entire slide and text superimposed over it. Was that an image from Pixabay? They have some really wonderful ones on that site, and I had never heard of it before this week’s readings! I did wonder, though, about the image on slide 2. While that showed a picture of a kid in a wheelchair, the art style seemed different from other images in the presentation, and it didn’t really seem related to a school setting. The Learning Activity on Visual Evaluation had some helpful suggestions for choosing the most appropriate images.
- In response to your question, I do find the slides rather text-heavy. The webinar I mentioned earlier has tips on adding narration. Power Point makes it really easy to record narration for a slide, and you can then even save your file in video format. I know we don’t have much time to do the revision for the Unit 9 assignment, but those are at least options you can consider for future presentations. You could also just split up some slides into two so they do not have as much text.

I am really inspired by your idea and would love to see the revised presentation in Unit 10!

John

#### References

Purdue University Global Writing Center. (2018). Creating effective power point presentations [Webinar transcript]. <https://kuportal-a.akamaihd.net/ascmmedia/wc/powerpointwebinar.pdf>