KAPLAN UNIVERSITY

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:

Last week, the thesis statement in my discussion post did indicate my idea for helping children on the autism spectrum: "Insurance companies should reimburse ABA therapy for children on the autism spectrum." I mentioned that I felt the thesis needed something else, and John's response to me had a great idea for adding this to my statement: "because this is a form of mental health care that will improve the lives of the children and their families as well as their performance in school." I may tweak that last part a bit; I want to emphasize the high cost of ABA when insurance does not cover it, both in terms of financial strain on a family and greater challenges for schools trying to educate these children. So, here is my new thesis: "Insurance companies should reimburse ABA therapy for children on the autism spectrum because ABA is a form of mental health care, most families cannot afford the necessary hours without coverage, and schools cannot be expected to provide all special education support."

Some search terms I can use would be "Applied Behavior Analysis," "ABA insurance coverage," and "ABA and autism." A quick search in the KU Library reminded me of the importance of limiting search terms and spelling out words, though; the "Applied Behavior Analysis" search yielded over 2.5 million results, and the "ABA insurance coverage" search got me a bunch of articles on the American Bankers Association. Once I changed the search term to spell out "Applied Behavior Analysis insurance coverage," the search results matched what I needed and the 172,535 results, while a lot more than I need, can be further narrowed by limiting the date and asking for only full text articles. The Kaplan Library video "Research in Practice" (2012) had helpful tips on selecting databases and creating search terms that should also help me to manage my searches more effectively. While I just did general searches for an initial check to make sure I would be able to find materials, a couple of the Kaplan Library databases could be helpful; ERIC focuses on educational issues, so that is a no-brainer, and Health Source Complete also seems like a good idea.

A possible interview subject would be the woman who runs The Shape of Behavior, an ABA provider in my city. She would obviously be knowledgeable about the subject, and I could actually contact her. While an in-person interview might not be possible given her schedule, I am sure she could do a FaceTime chat with me.

I do think that audio resources could be crucial for gathering information on my topic; videos of children in therapy sessions and interviews with ABA providers would give concrete evidence of how ABA works and why it benefits children. I reviewed the TED Talk "5 Ways to Listen Better"

for some ideas about effective listening, and I was shocked by the fact that people only retain about 25% of what they hear (Treasure, 2012). I know I have a tendency to miss things because I am so focused on what I need to get done that day, so I will have to fight against that tendency and work on listening more effectively. I may try out some of those exercises he mentions like spending time in absolute silence or really noticing the varied sounds in a place like a coffee shop (Treasure, 2012). One technique I may try that a friend recommended is watching a video with no sound and then listening without watching; this might help me to "read" body language more carefully as well as pay more attention to what I am hearing.

As for evaluating sources, I am not worried about research I find in the Kaplan Library. However, I will need to evaluate web sites much more carefully; I don't want to pick out a source that is biased or, in the case of a site for an ABA provider, trying to sell a service (Kaplan University Writing Center, n.d.).

<div align="center">References</div>

Research in practice [Video file]. (2012). Kaplan University Library. Retrieved from
 https://khe2.adobeconnect.com/_a769721248/cm220_part3_searching/

Kaplan University Writing Center. (n.d.). Research, citation, and plagiarism: Top 10 mistakes in academic research. Retrieved from
 https://kucampus.kaplan.edu/DocumentStore/Docs10/pdf/research/Top_Ten_Mistakes.pdf

Treasure, J. (2011, July). *5 ways to listen better* [Video file]. *TED Talks.* Retrieved from
 http://www.ted.com/talks/julian_treasure_5_ways_to_listen_better.html

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RESPONSE POST:

Hi Kelly,

I often get frustrated when conducting research in the Kaplan Library because I just don't know how to sift through thousands of articles and e-books. The library video you mentioned seems like it has helpful tips for creating search terms and limiting searches, so I am going to review that carefully. I also remember seeing some other videos on the library's site called TORCH, for "Teach yourself, get organized, research, check your research, get help" (Kaplan University Library, 2014). Maybe they offer some additional ideas for making library research easier.

Have you done any searches on the internet yet? This seems like a pretty debatable topic given how heated people got when talking about health care reform; have you found any articles that seemed biased or lacked credible evidence for claims? Those problems are definitely things I will look out for after reviewing this week's "Academic Sources" podcast (Clements, 2012).

Steve

<div align="center">References</div>

Clements, K. (2012, January 6). Academic sources [Podcast]. *Effective writing podcast series.*
Retrieved from http://www.screencast.com/t/BMapDMaesXvL

Kaplan University Library. (2014). TORCH [video file]. Retrieved from
http://library.kaplan.edu/torch