

# SAMPLE DISCUSSION POST:

## UNIT 3

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*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:**

I want to write about the need for insurance companies to cover ABA (applied behavioral therapy) for children on the autism spectrum. Hopefully my research questions will help me with the thesis:

1. What are the benefits of ABA therapy for children on the autism spectrum and how frequently do children need the therapy to gain benefits?
2. How might the new health care mandate that requires insurance companies to cover mental health in the same way that they do physical health relate to this issue?
3. What percentage of schools in the US offers ABA therapy to students with an autism diagnosis?

Here is my first attempt at a thesis statement: Insurance companies should reimburse ABA therapy for children on the autism spectrum. I feel like this will need more substance, though. I wonder if I should include reasons why insurance companies will be required to do this. Based on the "Writing a Thesis Statement" reading, I believe this argument is persuasive, and it does have a policy/proposal claim.

I have tried making this argument before; I even sent a letter to my state legislator representative asking him to introduce a bill that would require insurance companies to provide coverage for ABA. He (or probably his secretary) sent me a nice form letter telling me he would look into the matter further. I think a broader grassroots campaign is needed to generate interest in this issue before the legislature will do anything.

### References

The University Writing Center. (2011). Writing a thesis statement: The central step in the writing process. Retrieved from [https://kucampus.kaplan.edu/DocumentStore/Docs11/pdf/WC/WritingAThesis\\_Mar2011.pdf](https://kucampus.kaplan.edu/DocumentStore/Docs11/pdf/WC/WritingAThesis_Mar2011.pdf)

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**RESPONSE POST:**

Hi Kelly,

You mentioned in your post that you wondered if your thesis statement needed more detail; I wonder if you could include the “because” part explaining why insurance companies should do this? Some of the examples in this week’s “Thesis Statement Writing” Learning Activity included that, and I found that the statements were even more compelling when they mentioned a reason that something should be done. Maybe you could have something like this: “Insurance companies should reimburse ABA therapy for children on the autism spectrum 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 look forward to seeing where this topic takes you!

John