

SAMPLE DISCUSSION POST:

UNIT 4

*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:

I revised my thesis statement based on the suggestion that John offered in the Unit 3 discussion: “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.” As I mentioned last week, I believe this is a claim of policy. As noted in the Clements’ podcast “Argument and the Toulmin Model,” the claim would be the first part of the thesis: “Insurance companies should reimburse ABA therapy for children on the autism spectrum.” The warrant would be the underlying assumption to my argument, the idea that insurance companies should cover treatments that would improve the lives of children and their families, treatments that might not be “medically necessary.” I know I agree with this assumption, but I am not sure that everyone in my audience would. What do others think?

I would use all of the appeals that Clements describes in his podcast on logical appeals. My ethos would be based on my experience as the parent of an autistic child and my work in classrooms with special needs children. Logos would come from expert testimony and studies that show the impact of ABA therapy on children’s behavior and learning capabilities, and pathos would come from stories about children. I have come across so many children who would have benefitted from ABA, but their parents just could not afford it. After reviewing “How to Support an Argument and Avoid Logical Fallacies,” I realized I may need to be careful about the “ad hominem” fallacy; after so many entanglements with insurance companies trying to get reimbursed for therapies for my son, I know I do not have the most positive attitude about this industry. I do not want to come across as attacking all insurance providers, particularly when they are just following current law. I also need to be careful about the “cause and effect” fallacy. Not all treatments, ABA included, automatically lead to better outcomes for those on the autism spectrum, and I do not want to insinuate that just because a child gets this therapy that he or she will be “cured” of autism.

References

Clements, K. (2011, March). How to support an argument and avoid logical fallacies. Retrieved from <https://kucampus.kaplan.edu/DocumentStore/Docs11/pdf/WC/HowToSupportAnArgumentEditV2Jan25MP.pdf>

Clements, K. (2013, September 6). The three appeals of argumentative writing [Podcast]. *Effective Writing Podcast Series*. Retrieved from <http://www.screencast.com/t/8gyyeFs27>

Clements, K. (2013, September 6). Argument and the Toulmin model [Podcast]. *Effective Writing Podcast Series*. Retrieved from <https://soundcloud.com/kurtis-clements/argument-and-toulmin-model-1>

*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 to contact the instructor with any questions.*

RESPONSE POST:

Hi Kelly,

Your revised thesis statement looks great! I am still having trouble making mine persuasive, and seeing your example really helped me to understand that I need a debatable claim. As for the warrant to your argument, I think many parents would agree with the assumption that insurance providers should be paying for treatments that could help children. However, I can see others rebutting this claim, asking where this demand for coverage would end. What other treatments might parents claim are beneficial for their children? I have heard of some rather radical treatments for autism, including chelation therapy, and I am guessing insurance companies do not want to be expected to cover those. You could respond that this is an example of the “slippery slope” fallacy covered in Clements’ “How to Support an Argument and Avoid Logical Fallacies” guide. If you emphasize that ABA is a type of mental health, just like seeing a psychologist for depression, maybe that would help you to address that rebuttal.

Todd

References

Clements, K. (2011, March). How to support an argument and avoid logical fallacies. Retrieved from <https://kucampus.kaplan.edu/DocumentStore/Docs11/pdf/WC/HowToSupportAnArgumentEditV2Jan25MP.pdf>