

SAMPLE DISCUSSION POST:

UNIT 5

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:

My potential thesis statement is “Insurance companies should reimburse ABA therapy for children on the autism spectrum because ABA is a form of mental health care.” Some search terms I can use would be “Applied Behavior Analysis,” “ABA insurance coverage,” and “ABA and autism.” A quick search in the 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. I can further narrow my results by limiting the date and asking for only full text articles. Another way to narrow my search is to use specific databases in the library; ERIC focuses on educational issues, and Health Source Consumer also seems like a good idea for this topic.

Using the search term “ABA therapy autism” in the general search bar, I found an article that looks particularly helpful since it focuses primarily on the debate about insurance coverage for ABA therapy. This article was published in *The Journal of Legal Medicine* in 2013, so it is fairly recent and published by a reputable publication. This would be a secondary source since Hansel is drawing upon information from other sources and offering an interpretation of that information (The University Library, 2015). My only concern is that the author is a second-year law student, not a practicing lawyer. Journals are peer-reviewed, however, so I would assume that experts reviewed Hansel’s article. I know 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 (The University Writing Center, n.d.).

References

Hansel, K. (2013). Rethinking insurance coverage of “experimental” applied behavioral analysis therapy and its usefulness in combating autism spectrum disorder. *The Journal of Legal Medicine*, 34, 215-233. doi: 10.1080/01947648.2013.800798

The University Library. (2015). Primary, secondary, and tertiary sources. Retrieved from <http://kaplan.libanswers.com/faq/64835>

The 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

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RESPONSE POST:

Hi Kelly,

I often get frustrated when conducting research in the Library because I just don't know how to sift through thousands of articles and e-books. I remember seeing a video on the library's site called TORCH, for "Teach yourself, get organized, research, check your research, get help" (The 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

References

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

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