POST:

My Unit 6 paper about a change in my field of study will be about changes to email that Microsoft is pushing, especially to businesses. The reason I chose this topic is that this fits right in with my major field and it's something I think will have an effect on email and work productivity, or at least I think so.

Below is my thesis and outline. I read in the KU Writing Center document called *From Research Question to Thesis* that a thesis needs to answer a research question, so I started with the question, "What effect will Microsoft's plan for changing from attachment based-emails to a cloud based system have on businesses?" I know from the reading assignment that a thesis should indicate the specific point the writer is making about the topic, but I'm not sure if my thesis does that yet or not. It's a start and I would appreciate any feedback you have on my thesis and outline.

I. THESIS: Email is a convenient way to communicate but Microsoft is trying to change the way it is done.

II. Email travels through the Internet and can get the message to the recipient almost immediately.
   a. The messages can be received within a few seconds and a response sent within a few minutes.
   b. It does not matter if the recipient is online at the time or not. The messages wait for them to open their email software.

III. Email uses a protocol that is recognized by all email softwares.

IV. Microsoft is the largest supplier of software in the world.
   a. They are the predominant supplier of PC operating systems.
   b. They even supply users with a free software for basic email services.

V. The cloud is where a user’s data is saved on servers owned and operated by companies like Google and Microsoft.
   a. The cloud saves memory space on the user’s PC.
b. The user can access the data anytime.

VI. Microsoft now has email type software that will eliminate the need for attaching documents to an email.

a. The document can be saved in the cloud.

b. Access can be granted to all those for whom the document is relevant in an email sent to them.

c. Multiple people can then work on the document.

VII. This method saves memory space on multiple PCs and can enable better collaboration.

Thanks in advance!

John

SAMPLE STUDENT RESPONSE TO CLASSMATE’S INITIAL POST

Hi John, I think you're doing a great job with your topic ideas. I think an academic audience would be really interested in learning about the effects this change might have, so it's a great topic idea. Your thesis does seem to me to say that a change is coming, but I can't tell from that thesis what point you are making about that change, which is one thing that our unit reading assignment says a strong thesis needs to do. Are you saying it is a good change or bad, or if your point is to analyze the effects of the change, do you need to indicate that in your thesis? I do know that the KUWC reading assignment indicated that many thesis statements establish a 3-part thesis, so do you need to indicate three specific ways that this change affect American businesses, as in "Microsoft's proposed change to cloud based email will change business communication in X Y and Z ways? That may change some of the points in your outline. For example, you mention in point VI that the software eliminates the need for attaching documents—is that the effect or is the effect that cloud based documents will allow all users to have access to and work on a document together? If that is a positive effect of this change, would you need to make that either point the main supporting point (II, III, IV, V, etc.) instead? I do hope this helps, and I think you are really on track here. I'm jealous, in fact, because I am not this far along in the process!

Kim