SAMPLE INITIAL POST

I read an article about student loan debt and its effects, and what I think I want to do for my Unit 9 assignment is to imagine that I am working for the school board in my county and making a recommendation for something the school board can do for teachers or students to help them avoid or better deal with student loan debt. I think I spend too much time summarizing the article that I read and probably need to work on my recommendation more. I also am not sure about the format and what to do to make it a memo. Any suggestions?

According to the article “Three Things You Can Do to Make College More Affordable” by Mary Ellen Flannery, seven out of ten students will graduate with some debt, and these students will owe about $30,000 each. The article states that the total American student debt amount is 1.2 trillion dollars. The article reminds readers that debt is more than just a nuisance; it impairs people from getting an education and achieving the American dream.

The National Education Association is attempting to raise awareness about the problem of student debt. On November 10, 2014, the NEA will be launching its degree not debt campaign. This campaign attempts to educate people about the student debt crisis and provide resources for students, parents, and educators who are dealing with this crisis. As part of this campaign, the NEA will hold information sessions that are led by students. They will be held on college campuses across the United States as well as on Twitter. These information sessions will be student led. These programs will attempt to educate people about income-based repayment programs and public-service loan forgiveness programs.

I think that Alberta county schools should do something similar to help students who are about to go to college and their own teachers. From what I have learned, most of our students, because they are low income, go to college only if they can borrow money, which means they come out of college with huge debts. Many of them become teachers, and that makes it
challenging for them to afford homes and even focus on teaching, if they are saddled with debt. I propose we have workshops informing our students and teachers about how to avoid borrowing too much money and ways they can reduce their debt once they are out of college.

Any advice would be great!

Thanks

Marsha

RESPONSE TO CLASSMATE’S INITIAL POST

That sounds like a great article, Marsha, and I like that you establish a really helpful reason for writing your executive summary. I think you are right that you have to be careful with the summary of the article. This week’s reading assignment says to keep the summary of the source to around 10-15 percent of the document, so you may have to spend more time condensing the article to make that a shorter part of the paper and more time on your recommendation. You mention the proposal for workshops, and that’s what I would focus on. Why do you think the workshops will help the country students and teachers? What would they do and how would this help the school system, students and teachers? If you can explain that, your audience would be more willing to try out your idea, I think. As for the format, you just want to include the following at the top of your paper to turn it into a memo:

MEMO

TO: The name of your audience

FROM: Your name
SUBJECT: Proposal for student loan workshop

DATE: The day you send it

That subject line, by the way, needs to be as specific as possible and your audience should be too, the actual name of the individual who would make the decision, if possible.

Hope this helps!

Charmayne