

A.C.E.D.

For Drafting Effective Online Discussion Post Responses

A



Agree

WITH WHAT THE ORIGINAL POSTER WROTE, AND PROVIDE A SECOND CITED EXAMPLE THAT ALSO SUPPORTS THE PERSON'S CLAIM, OBSERVATION, OR STANCE.

Mark, I agree that Mary's lamb should not have been at school. By making the children "laugh and play," the lamb distracted them from their studies and effectively set back their learning by days or even months each time Mary brought him to class (Hale 1830).

C



Connect

TO ANOTHER TEXT OR ANOTHER EVENT. EXPLAIN HOW WHAT THEY WROTE REMINDS YOU OF SOMETHING ELSE YOU READ OR ANOTHER RECENT OR HISTORICAL EVENT. YOU NEED TO BE SURE YOU EXPLAIN WHY THE TWO THINGS ARE ALIKE.

The theme of distraction from appropriate work is apparent in other folk tales, as well. For example, in *The Three Little Pigs*, two of the brothers are so focused on the pursuit of pleasure that they fail to build homes strong enough to protect them from the Wolf. Only the diligence and focus on the third brother--who builds his house from time-consuming brick--saves all three lives (Jacobs 1890).

E



Empathize

WITH WHAT THE ORIGINAL POSTER WROTE. IF THEY SHARED A PERSONAL STORY, THANK THEM FOR SHARING IT AND WRITE A RESPONSE EMPATHIZING WITH THEIR EXPERIENCE. EITHER SHARE A VERY SHORT EXPERIENCE OF YOUR OWN OR CITE A PIECE OF EVIDENCE FROM THE ASSIGNED TEXT THAT ISN'T ONE THEY ALREADY CITED IN THEIR ORIGINAL RESPONSE.

Betty Lou, it must have been heartbreaking to see your beloved pet lamb run over by that combine! I'm so sorry. In the nursery rhyme, Mary is heartbroken simply because the teacher "turned out" her lamb. I can only imagine her emotional anguish had the lamb died in such a violent fashion (Hale 1830).

D



Disagree

WITH WHAT THE ORIGINAL POSTER WROTE, AND PROVIDE A CITED EXAMPLE THAT PROVES THAT THEY ARE WRONG. EXPLAIN WHY YOUR EVIDENCE PROVES THEY ARE WRONG. DON'T FORGET TO KEEP YOUR TONE RESPECTFUL. DEBATE IS FUN; PERSONAL ATTACKS ARE NOT.

Ted, although I also appreciate a lighthearted break from the daily grind of academic life, I do not agree that Mary's introduction of the lamb into the learning environment was merely a short break. The lamb was a nuisance and a distraction throughout the school day, since it "lingered near" all day waiting for "Mary to appear" (Hale 1830). That's more than just a quick "brain break."