COM 803 Hermeneutics and Communication

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Professor

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**Assignment #2 – Developmental Readings**

1. Create Developmental Readings from seminal sources and scholarly peer-reviewed journal articles. Review the instructions for Assignment #3, the course essential elements, and course readings to identify selections of books and journals to create entries.

a. Refer to the "**Student Guide to Developmental Readings**" in the **General Helps** folder for updated information on *sample comments*, *the grading rubric*, and *key definitions* related to developmental readings.

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**Source One:** Colibaba, A., Skinner, M., & Russell, E. (2022). Supporting Older Volunteers &

Sustaining Volunteer-Based Programs in Rural Communities. *Trent Center for Aging & Societies.*

**Comment 1:**

**Quote/Paraphrase: “**Rural communities, where populations are aging rapidly, are often challenged to support their older residents, relying on the voluntary sector to provide essential services (Davies et al., 2018)” (Colibaba, 2022, p. 2).

**Essential Element:** This comment relates to the element of Reading Techniques for Scholarly Research.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This comment is additive to my argument.

**Contextualization:**  In my volunteer work with the Hospital Foundation, I’ve witnessed our healthcare district's challenges in providing adequate services to our older residents. This is where more senior volunteers can support, not only their rural communities but their own psycho-social wellbeing as they derive meaning and purpose from remaining engaged in hands-on volunteer work.

**Comment 2:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “Older peoples’ heightened vulnerabilities to COVID-19 have raised awareness about the need for isolated rural older adults to maintain social connections. To support this challenge, rural volunteer-based programs offer support for isolated residents and opportunities for participation and social networking through volunteering” (Colibaba (2022), p. 3).

**Essential Element:** This comment relates to the essential element of Reading Techniques for Scholarly Research.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This comment is additive to my chosen argument.

**Contextualization:** While our healthcare district was concerned about the safety of our Foundation’s older volunteers, accommodations were made because the district leaders wanted Foundation members to remain connected to our community. Thus, they permitted Zoom meetings and approved adaptive ways for us to host our Tree of Lights fundraising event.

**Comment 3:**

**Quote/Paraphrase: “**Older volunteers may positively influence the sustainability of rural communities – ensuring not only the sustainability of the rural economy and services but also facilitating aging in place and lessening the likelihood that older rural residents become stuck in place” (Colibaba, 2022, p. 2).

**Essential Element:** This comment relates to the element of Interpretive Methods in Social Research.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This comment is additive to my argument.

**Contextualization:**  Our older volunteers (in the Foundation) make tremendous contributions to our community. Their sense of purpose and meaning equates to greater well-being, as I’ve seen by the way they are aging in place and remaining vibrant.

**Source Two:** To, R. (2020). A Practical Guide For Volunteer Involving Organizations.

*policy*, *2*(6251), 4060. https://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/wp-content/uploads/VA\_Practical\_Guide\_For\_VIOs.pdf

**Comment 4:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “If your organisation works with people with weakened immune systems, older people, those with disabilities or those with long-term health conditions like diabetes, cancer and chronic lung disease, you must plan to limit their risk to being exposed” (To, 2020, p. 6).

**Essential Element:** This comment pertains to the element of Interpretive Methods in Social Research.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This comment is both an additive and a variant of my argument. On the one hand yes, it is imperative that weaker people be shielded from the risk of virus exposure. On the other hand, they should not be stuck at home with no way to contribute to the community.

**Contextualization:** Our healthcare district initially ordered Foundation members to stay home. However, once adequate PPEs were available in the valley, members were welcome to meet remotely and conduct our business and plan (and carry out) our Tree of Lights ceremony.

**Comment 5:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “Consider enabling staff and volunteers who have vulnerabilities and are understandably concerned about their health to take leave or time off or to volunteer or work from home” (To, 2020, p. 6).

**Essential Element:** This comment pertains to the element of Approaches of Hermeneutics.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This comment is additive to my argument.

**Contextualization:** Our Foundation members were permitted to take time off and abstain from meetings and fundraising efforts.

**Source Three:** Oliver, D. (2020). David Oliver: What the pandemic measures reveal about

ageism. *BMJ*, *369*. DOI: 10.1136/bmj.m1545

**Comment 6:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “Over-70s have been advised to avoid unnecessary social contact, remain largely indoors, and to do any outdoor exercise at a safe distance from others” (Oliver, 2020, p. 1).

**Essential Element:** This comment pertains to the essential element of Approaches of Hermeneutics.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This comment is variant to my chosen argument.

**Contextualization:** A month after the initial pandemic uncertainties in early 2020, our Foundation members were permitted to gather––at first remotely, then with warmer weather we met outdoors wearing masks and sitting 6 feet apart. Our hermeneutic interpretation of health regulations was that volunteers could meet in person if the mandated protocols were adhered to.

**Comment 7:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “…even the Equality Act allows for some “differentiation” based on age, as “a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim” (Oliver, 2020, p. 1).

**Essential Element:**  This comment pertains to Interpretive Methods in Social Research.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This comment is variant to my chosen argument.

**Contextualization:** Our Foundation was not forced into any form of “differentiation.” Instead, we were able to determine our own rules for safely meeting. We followed the Healthcare District’s protocols, which permitted masked, socially-distanced gatherings. All in-person meetings took place off-site from the hospital campus, in order to protect patients and vulnerable frail residents of our Skilled Nursing Facility.

**Comment 8:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “Older people are already prone to social isolation, loneliness, and their effects on mental health” (Oliver, 2020, p. 1).

**Essential Element:** This comment pertains to Reading Techniques for Scholarly Research.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This comment is additive to my chosen argument.

**Contextualization:** Older people are indeed prone to social isolation even without a pandemic! Our Foundation, being comprised of persons aged 50+, refused to disengage from the important work that we do. Our ability to adapt and carry on served us well.

**Source Four:** Toquero, C. M. D. (2021). Psychological, Physical, and Social Health Needs of

the Aging Society and Post-Pandemic Recommendations on Gerontology. *European Journal* *of Environment and Public Health*, *5*(2), em0080. https://doi.org/10.21601/ejeph/11055

**Comment 9:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “Since they are vulnerable to the negative effects of the coronavirus, such as anxiety, depression, and isolation, this sense of security and emotional fulfillment is absolutely critical during this time of social and physical isolation” (Toquero, 2021, p. 1).

**Essential Element:** This comment pertains to the essential element of Scholarly Writing Techniques.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This comment is additive to my chosen argument.

**Contextualization:** Toquero states that older people need emotional fulfillment. I witnessed emotional fulfillment as our Foundation members resumed our meetings (modified though they were). We laughed, we cried, we shared stories of fear and loss. But through that sharing we maintained our sense of emotional and social connectedness. Our shared purpose pulled us through and kept us focused on our roles, tasks and ultimate goals.

**Comment 10:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “Agencies or support groups can create volunteerism among older adults.” (Toquero, 2021, p. 2).

**Essential Element:** This comment pertains to the essential element of Approaches of Hermeneutics.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This comment is additive to my chosen argument.

**Contextualization:** Our Foundation members became its own support group. We stayed in communication with one another during the lockdowns. We then resumed our planning meetings as soon as we could. And we made our annual Tree of Lights fundraising ceremony a success by adapting the event so that attendees to remain in their cars (drive-in theater style) or watch the ceremony live via Facebook or as archived on YouTube.

**Comment 11:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “older adults located in rural settings have higher rates of some form of underlying health conditions, but they have limited access to health care and can experience volatile circumstances because of the COVID -19 (Henning-Smith, 2020)” (Toquero, 2021, p. 2).

**Essential Element:** This comment pertains to the essential element of APA Style.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This comment is variant to my chosen argument. I question Toquereo’s statement that older adults in rural settings are underserved in health care.

**Contextualization:** Our healthcare district, while small and rural, maintains (and maintained during the pandemic) full services to all residents including older residents. Our emergency department remained fully staffed, and any person in respiratory distress was seen quickly.

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