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Major: Computer Science

Course: Effective Academic Writing

Assignment: Week 10 Assignment (Try-It-Out2)

Date: 30 March 2024  
  
  
  
  
**Part 1: Compare and Contrast Sources**  
  
  
*Popular Source: "Therapy dogs help students cope with the stress of college life" by Christine Kivlen (The Conversation, 2021)*

Author: Christine Kivlen, although specific credentials are not provided in the excerpt, is likely a knowledgeable individual in the field of occupational therapy.

Audience: The intended audience for this article is the general public, including college students, faculty, and individuals interested in mental health and well-being.

Purpose: The purpose of this article is to inform readers about the growing trend of therapy dog programs on college campuses and their positive impact on students' mental health. The author aims to raise awareness about the benefits of therapy dog programs as a means of coping with the stresses of college life.

Sources Cited: The excerpt does not include direct citations or references. Instead, the author draws from personal anecdotes and general knowledge of therapy dog programs without citing specific sources there are no literature review or reference list/bibliography.

Language: The language used in the popular source is casual and accessible, catering to a broad audience. The writing style is narrative-driven, incorporating personal anecdotes and relatable examples to engage readers.

Visuals: The article includes images of therapy dogs and college students interacting with them, enhancing the reader's understanding and appeal of the content.

*Scholarly Source: "Should Dogs Have a Seat in the Classroom? The Effects of Canine Assisted Education on College Student Mental Health" by Christine Kivlen, Allison Quevillon, and Dani Pasquarelli (The Open Journal of Occupational Therapy, 2022)*

Author: Christine Kivlen, Allison Quevillon, and Dani Pasquarelli are all highly qualified individuals with advanced degrees and professional credentials in occupational therapy.

Audience: The intended audience for this scholarly article is researchers, practitioners, and educators within the occupational therapy profession, as well as academics and professionals interested in mental health interventions in educational settings.

Purpose: The purpose of this article is to present the findings of a research study investigating the effects of canine-assisted education on college students' mental health. The authors aim to contribute empirical evidence to the existing literature on the efficacy of canine-assisted interventions in addressing mental health concerns among college students.

Sources Cited: The scholarly article includes 35 sources, a reference list citing previous research studies and scholarly sources relevant to the study's topic, demonstrating a thorough review of the existing literature.

Language: The language used in the scholarly source is formal and technical, characteristic of academic writing. The writing style is objective and research-focused, presenting the study's methodology and findings in a clear and precise manner.

#### Visuals: The article includes figures and tables to present research data and findings visually, aiding in the understanding and interpretation of the study's results. These visuals serve to enhance the scholarly nature of the content and facilitate comprehension for the intended audience. **Part 2: Review the Source Characteristics**

In my assessment, I accurately identified the key characteristics of the popular and scholarly sources based on the provided excerpts. I noted the differences in audience, purpose, language, and visuals between the two articles.

Interestingly, I observed that both articles were authored by Christine Kivlen. However, the nature and presentation of their content varied significantly. The popular source, published in The Conversation, targeted a general audience, and employed a narrative-driven approach with accessible language and engaging visuals. On the other hand, the scholarly source, published in The Open Journal of Occupational Therapy, catered to a specialized audience of researchers and practitioners in occupational therapy, featuring formal language and research-focused content with academic citations and visuals such as figures and tables presenting research data.

Overall, my assessment aligned with the source characteristics summarized in the chart, highlighting the distinct features of popular and scholarly sources.  
  
**Part 3A. Check Your Understanding**

#### **Part 3B. Reflect or Discuss**

Answer 1: I did well on the assessment, accurately identifying the key characteristics of the popular and scholarly sources. For me, the most challenging source characteristic to identify is often the intended audience. Sometimes, it can be tricky to discern whether the audience is specialized or general, especially if the language used in the source is not overtly technical or academic.

Answer 2: When deciding which sources to use in my research paper, I would consider several factors to determine their usefulness. Firstly, I would evaluate the credibility and reliability of the source by examining the author's credentials, publication venue, and whether the information is supported by evidence or references. Scholarly sources, with their rigorous peer-review process and academic affiliations, often carry more weight in academic writing.

However, I would also recognize the value of popular sources in providing diverse perspectives, real-world examples, and engaging narratives that can supplement scholarly research. Popular sources can be useful for illustrating broader societal trends, human interest stories, or practical applications of academic concepts.