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Assignment #3 Personal Reflection

English for the Sciences

Professor Hunter

COVID-19 is one of the main issues surfacing the world right now. The importance of what this virus is, how the virus is circulated, how it can be detected, and ways to remain healthy are all topics everyone needs to understand. Personally, I believe, the biggest issue that needs to be addressed is figuring out the best method to share information for everyone to understand. COVID-19, after all, is a virus that has many big scientific words, reasoning, and explanation that many might find difficulty understanding. This is one of the many reasons why my group and I picked COVID-19 to base our children's book on. We wanted to make a children's book about COVID-19 and simplify the idea of how to stay safe and remain healthy for children to understand.

The storyline we wanted to have was a child, Mark, going to school, playing at recess with his friends, and forgetting to wash his hands when he comes home. He eats without washing his hands, touching his video game controller afterward, and even rubbing his eyes. All of these actions, without washing his hands, made it possible for the germs to get him sick. However, once he started to wash his hands, eat healthy, get good rest he was able to "train" his body to take care of itself and remain healthy. Therefore, the storyline acted as a way of if you do not wash your hands, eat healthy, and get good rest you could/will get sick. However, if you do take precautions to stay healthy, you will be healthy.

One of the struggles my group and I ran into was figuring out a way to make the concept of COVID-19 understandable for children while still giving out accurate information in the simplest way possible. We took this challenge and broke it up into different categories in order to defeat it. The first main category is what diction is being used in our scientific children's books and how were the authors able to simplify complex scientific concepts. We noticed that in scientific children's books, or generally in children's books, the illustrations play a very big factor. Children who may not even understand how to read or have difficulty reading can look at the illustrations and figure out what is being said. Also, illustration can be the first thing that grabs the reader's attention. We took this concept and implicated it in our own children's book. Each page had a basic illustration of what the text was saying so even if we still had difficulty using the right diction the illustration would act as another resource. It was fairly difficult to find a way to describe in a children's book what exactly the virus was, however, with the illustrations being a COVID monster it would elucidate that COVID, aka the monster, is a bad thing that needs to stay away from one's body. We also wanted to elucidate that washing hands, going to bed early

to get good rest, and eating healthy were positive habits to have and will protect one's body from the "monster(s)".