Closing the Gap Between College and Career

Name

Institution Affiliation

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**Part 1: Research Proposal**

The topic selected for this research is “Closing the Gap Between College and Career." This topic is essential to study, as it highlights one of the common challenges that face the labor market today. What sparks my interest in this issue is following the increased number of unemployed youths and the shortage of skilled and competent candidates to hire. The organization makes some efforts to maintain the existing talents because of the worry about never finding new ones in the labor market (Johnson, & Sengupta, 2009). This issue matters because it will benefit both the education system and the labor market.

The main stakeholders in this issue include the graduates, different organizations in the education system, and the employers, and the government agencies that focus on the matters related to labor and employment (Kearney, & Herrington, 2013). The intended audience includes employers and educators, and other officials in the education system. The group with the capacity to make changes is those in the education sector and government. This group knows what it takes to come up with successful individuals who will meet the market's needs. Besides, they can make some of the policies that will help address the issue.

Initially, I selected a general topic related to education and career. I described a specific area in this topic area. This was followed by mentioning a particular area of the subject. Then, I turned the topic into the statement or topic sentence. Finally, the topic was finetuned using elements like relationship and place. I could keep narrowing the topic if needed by establishing specific issues or areas within the topic and creating some questions related to it.

The topic is debatable because one could argue that closing the gap between education and college is not possible following the complex nature of the two involved fields (Parikh‐Foxx, Martinez, Baker & Olsen, 2020).

Who are the main stakeholders in bridging the gap between the college and the work market? (Nagle, Newman, Shaver, & Marschark, 2016).

What resources are needed to achieve the current gap between colleges and careers?

What should be the timeline for closing this group?

What is the role of the government in reducing the gap between education and career?

What metrics should be used to address the issue identified in this case?

This topic is very researchable because there is a broad spectrum of sources available. There are both peer-reviewed and other articles that discuss this topic. These sources provide various views and insights on how the identified research problem can be addressed (Snyder & Bristol, 2015). These sources offer various opinions and knowledge on the topic. The sources seem credible and reliable because most of them are from peer-reviewed journals and credible organizations. It was relatively easy to find peer-reviewed sources because this is a widely studied topic. The most promising sources journal articles because they contain verified and credible information regarding the topic (Stewart, Wall, & Marciniec, 2016). Also, the information provided in these sources is logical and supported by a lot of literature.

**Part 2: Annotated Bibliography**

**Johnson, H., & Sengupta, R. (2009). Closing the gap: Meeting California's need for college graduates. Public Policy Instit. of CA**

The text highlights some of the various requirements needed by multiple employers in California for college graduates. The college period in California is set so that every student has to clear all set units and attain at least the pass mark score to graduate out of college successfully. With different employers looking for various qualifications during the hiring or selection process for entrants in the lowest job caliber, these college students are entitled to doing their best, both in and out of class, to help attain maximum requirements for the type of job requirements and specifications needed.

**Kearney, W. S., & Herrington, D. E. (2013). The Role of Inquiry in Closing the Gap between University Experience and Assistant Principal Career Transition through Simulated Realistic Job Preview. Education Leadership Review, 14(1), 69-82**

This article tries to explain the various inquiry roles in closing the gap between university experience and realistic job markets. Kearney and Herrington provide the importance of inquiry as a factor to be considered when seeking to join a job market from college. Through examinations, various students are guided on the different steps and measures they can take to better their chances of getting acquired in the job market from colleges very easily. They further highlight the various ways college graduates can inquire, which include visiting career fairs to help nurture their dreams and constantly get in touch with relevant people who would connect them to better job opportunities.

**Nagle, K., Newman, L. A., Shaver, D. M., & Marschark, M. (2016). College and career readiness: Course taking of deaf and hard of hearing secondary school students. American annals of the deaf, 160(5), 467-482**

The deaf is people to be considered once they finish college too. Through this article, Nagle et al. seek again to look at how the deaf can be prepared for the job market. In most communities, the deaf and other less fortunate people have been criticized and left out during employment opportunities. Many employers would see hiring various deaf individuals fresh from college, with no experience at any job or employment facility very futile. Therefore, it is in this sense that Nagle and his fellows seek to find ways in which the deaf can also be prepared after college to enter the job markets without critics or discrimination.

**Snyder, J., & Bristol, T. (2015). Professional accountability for improving life, college, and career readiness. Education policy analysis archives, 23, 16.**

In this article, Synder and Bristol explain the various ways in which professional accountability would help improve life in college and when looking to start a new career after college. Different college students are likely to set standards to earn accolades and experiences through professional responsibility, much required in the job market. Through professionalism, these students, however, lacking expertise can touch employers' hearts, making them see great potential in them, thereby offering them jobs.

**Stewart, C., Wall, A., & Marciniec, S. (2016, July). Mixed signals: Do college graduates have the soft skills that employers want?. In Competition Forum (Vol. 14, No. 2, p. 276). American Society for Competitiveness.**

In their article, Stewart and his colleagues look into if various college students have the soft skills different employers want. The answer is yes. Some students, of course, have considerable skills different employers wish to. Discipline is a virtue taught in school and hard work. These, among others like dedication and having the right attitude, are some of the various skills that would be required of freshly graduated college students. It is no doubt that everyone begins from scratch, and these employers were also once fresh college graduates and were trusted enough to become the professionals they are. Giving these graduates more chances would be great as it helps secure the future.

References

Johnson, H., & Sengupta, R. (2009). *Closing the gap: Meeting California's need for college graduates*. Public Policy Instit. of CA

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