Student:

Brittany

Topic:

What are the positives and negatives of stem cell therapy?

What is your name?

My name’s Brittany.

What was your research question?

I did the positives and negatives of stem cell therapy.

How did you decide that would be your question?

What I decided to start with is a, a recent debatable topic. I thought that would be the best way to get information easily and I’ve done a lot of that in science and yeah, I thought it would suit me. Yeah, I’ve always been interested in science, all throughout school and I wanted to follow it further in uni as well. Yeah, there was actually a few, you know, thoughts that I had in doing cancer as well but I decided on that one in the end because, yeah, of the information I thought it would be interesting and debatable as well. So, yeah, information from the positive and negative side.

How did you plan to answer your question?

Well I used a lot of the templates that was given to me from my teachers as well. But, because it is such a broad topic, the positives and negatives, I needed to make subtopics so the biggest key was to help people who didn’t really know about it understand it as well, so having topics like, you know, ‘what is it’ to start with, and then going from the positive side, having ‘what are the main positives’ and then the negative side, ‘what are the main negatives’ as well, so really breaking it down into the subtopics.

Where did your information mainly come from?

My main information was from my primary sources because that was the most reliable, and then they did direct me to websites and that was the best for me because I knew I could rely on those websites, like the Australian Stemcell Centre. My main primary source was Ernst Wolvetang, from the Queensland University, I reckon, and yeah he was the head in that department of the stemcell research and he was absolutely amazing when it came to doing that. Just phone calls and we tried to skype as well, and…but yeah, phone calls was the best. I had prewritten down my questions what I wanted to ask him and he was very helpful and he had questions for me as well so we had a good discussion about it as well.

How did you present your research outcome?

I had a report, so a scientific report but as well, again, trying to make it so it was easy for everyone to understand. Not too scientific. Yeah, I started with footnoting, because that was the easiest but my teachers did recommend doing in text as well because that was more like doing uni referencing. I thought that would be a better way to do it as well so I can get a head start on doing it before uni.

What challenges came up whilst undertaking the Research Project?

I had a problem with finding the same information with a lot of the websites that I went on because it was very general. Discussing what, you know, stem cells were and what were the positives and negatives so I came across a lot of the same points. So finding diversity in the subjects and the main topics that I had was quite difficult and that’s where my main, my primary sources came in handy and I could really get into the finer detail with that, so…

What would you say to students about to start their Research Project?

My main advice would be write down all the websites that you use straight up because going back and trying to find those websites that you went through is a nightmare.

How did your Research Project prepare you for what you are doing now?

I guess it was helpful for starting uni as well um having the science background for the topic that I did was really handy ‘cause I ... doing a lot of the topics and that was, like they’re related and stuff as well and for the research side of it doing assignments and referencing was an absolute key to