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Finding Physicians Fast: Making finding a doctor easier for ESL students

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Finding Physicians Fast: Making finding a doctor easier for ESL students
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Abstract
In the realm of healthcare, it is often difficult to decipher how to locate primary physicians. Those living in the US are familiar with the role of family care physicians; however, individuals who have immigrated to the U.S. may not fully understand how to find a family physician. By lowering the readability level of documents to a 6th grade level, we made the information accessible to international students in the Intensive English Program at UD.

Method
For our project, we took two documents that tested at a reading level of 12th grade. We did this by testing the original documents with the SMOG test and the Flesch-Kincaid Test. Through several meetings with the IEP students, we were able to obtain feedback as to how to improve the quality of our document. Then, we cut out unnecessary and confusing language and replaced it with language that was much easier to understand.

Result
We were able to produce a document that tested at a 6th grade reading level according to the SMOG test. Based on the feedback that we got from the IEP students, they understood the document that we gave them, so we believe we were successful in presenting a simplified health document that students with a low reading level were able to understand fully.

Method of Revision
We essentially revised our own document by adding a few definitions for complex yet necessary words, adding a concluding paragraph detailing what to do after visiting a doctor, and by revising a handful of sentences that the students found complicated. We made these changes in order to simplify our document even further and in order to make sure that the IEP students could fully understand our methods of finding a family doctor.

Conclusion
Our revised text tested well with the IEP students. The revised text was simplified to a 6th grade reading level and this helped the IEP students understand the information that we were trying to convey to them. We used a flowchart to convey our information, with a step by step process of finding a family doctor and what to do if you do or do not have insurance. The IEP students were able to follow the flowchart and understand how to find a doctor and other types of healthcare professionals.