The University of Dayton’s Current Amnesty Policy and its Ramifications for Students
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Abstract
The University of Dayton (UD) has recently changed their amnesty policy, a policy that typically states that students who seek medical assistance for themselves or for others will not be subjected to University disciplinary action for violation of alcohol policies, in order to foster a more open dialogue between students and administration regarding alcohol. However, many UD students are unaware of these changes. This project hopes to establish a better protocol to make students aware of the resources UD has available, as well as the main mechanism of action surrounding alcohol write-ups. In an effort to educate the campus further, we have created a document highlighting and simplifying the University's amnesty policy and the associated disciplinary and educational process for alcohol-related infractions.

Methods
We searched our school's website for the University of Dayton's Alcohol Policy and the associated amnesty clause. We chose to analyze the policy for clarity and effectiveness, and we performed a Flesch-Kincaid Readability Test to determine the reading level of the document. We additionally looked into alcohol-related policies and resources were explained and offered at other universities. Students from the University of Dayton were interviewed about the school's resources and disciplinary policy, and their feedback assisted in creating our new informational brochure. Information was also compiled from an interview with UD Police Chief Chatman and analysis of the UD code of conduct. All of the above information went into the synthesis of a more simplistic explanation of the amnesty policy in our brochure.

Original Documents

Final Document:

We simplify UD’s amnesty policy to a lower reading level from 18.9 to 8.6 based on the Flesch-Kincaid readability test. The new document incorporates a variety of information from the different resources that are available now at the University. To give students an idea of what to expect with their punishment, we listed the possible disciplinary actions depending on the severity of the violation. Additionally, we list the signs of alcohol poisoning with corresponding campus resources. We also included different resources that are available at UD for students who are struggling. The results of this document emphasize that clear, concise language is more effective in reading comprehension.

The original amnesty clause used complex language, was not specific, and was difficult to find. There was a lot of confusion around the amnesty and alcohol policy according to student testimonials. With the new brochure, students will have a simplified guide to understanding UD’s amnesty policy and associated disciplinary actions.

Combining and simplifying several UD resources makes the amnesty policy and associated alcohol-related resources and discipline easier to understand for student. The revised text is shorter and simpler than the multiple original documents. These changes allowed students to see a variety of different information from a plethora of different UD resources.