**DCA Essay Structure:   
Professional Discourse Community Analysis**

**Introduction**:   
Your introduction should provide the following three elements:

* Provide a clear **definition** of the concept of discourse community in your opening sentence, attributing the definition to Swales (No need to list all 6 points in your intro).
* Identify a **specific professional organization** that relates to your specific discipline (major). Include 1-2 sentences about the organization’s purpose for context.
* Present a **clear thesis** about this organization, tying it to Swales, asserting the organization is an example of a professional discourse community.

**Sample Thesis:** **According to Swales’ six-point definition, [Organization X] is an example of a professional discourse community**. 🡨This is the point you will prove in your body paragraphs.

**Body Paragraphs:**Begin **each paragraph** with **a topic sentence** that **specifically** **mentions one of Swales’ six traits** of a discourse community and **cite** **Swales’ words or ideas** **in the first sentence**. Address the rest of your paragraph to the corresponding points in your organization:

1. **Shared goals:** (Mention Swales’ point & cite); shared goals of your organization?
2. **Mechanisms for communication** (meetings, telecommunications, newsletters, blogs)
3. **How do members provide feedback and information** (Ex. “How to grow better roses”)
4. **Genres of communication:** Mention **three** **different genres,** i.e. types, categories of **writing,** this group uses (newsletters, scholarly journal articles, trade magazines, blogs, social media) and provide **one** quote from each genre (**total of 3 quotes** in APA format), **one paragraph for each genre**. Identify the audience, purpose, and writing style of each example, explaining the writing distinctions in each genre. (All citations must show: author, year, p. or para. #)
5. **Shared vocabulary** (“lexis”) common words and acronyms used in this organization.
6. **Experts and novice (new) members:** Explain how new members can learn from experts.

**Conclusion:** Your conclusion should do three things:

1. Remind the reader of the definition of a discourse community according to Swales.
2. Point out that your chosen professional organization functions, according to Swales’ definition, as a professional discourse community.
3. Mention the benefits of being a member of this discourse community for members in this field.

Make sure your essay is grammatically and mechanically (spelling and punctuation) correct.   
Make sure your essay is formatted in proper APA style.

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