

Sample Structured Assignment

Assignment

Term Paper

Purpose and Goals of the Assignment

You are to argue for the thesis you have chosen. To do so, you must demonstrate knowledge of the subject and synthesize information from several references.

Skills

You should demonstrate the following skills: persuasive arguments, clarity, and research skills.

Tone

This is a formal report. You should only use first-person sentence constructions in your conclusion where you are offering your own opinion supported by the research.

Audience

Your audience is a group that is generally knowledgeable about the field of education—in other words, your classmates.

Schedule

- January 21: Topic and two references submitted to instructor for approval (less than half a page, double spaced)
- February 5: Annotated list of references due
 - At least four sources; at least one must be from a peer-reviewed journal
- February 14: Four-page “research proposal” for term paper due
 - Statement of the thesis
 - Outline
 - List of references
- February 28: Draft of paper due
 - 8–10 pages, double spaced
 - 1” margins and 12-point font
- March 30: Final paper due

Assistance

You may schedule a conference to discuss topics, go over rough drafts, or review references. Please follow the protocol in the syllabus to schedule a conference. You may also drop in during office hours.

Style

Follow APA formatting for quoting, crediting, and referencing sources.

Style Expectations

Your writing will be expected to adhere to standard written English, including the following:

- No run-ons, incomplete sentences, or comma splices
- Scholarly language
- Subject and verb agreement
- No spelling errors
- Carefully editing in the final paper

Style Assistance

You may find these writing handbooks helpful:

- American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
- Hacker, D., & Sommers, N. (2012). *Rules for writers* (7th ed.). Boston, MA: Bedford/St. Martin's.
- Strunk, W., Jr., & White, E. B. (1979). *The elements of style* (3rd ed.). New York, NY: Macmillan.

Grading

Please refer to the term paper rubric for grading expectations.