

Assignment Instructions Sample with Student Notes

Step 1: Read the instruction thoroughly

Step 2: Determine the type & purpose

(D) Final Paper (40%) – Due Tuesday, April 12th by 11:59pm

Step 3: Check technical details

type: scholarly paper, but I can choose from different perspectives

purpose: ① what to do in the task?
② structure of the task?

For this assignment you are asked to write a **scholarly paper (12-15 pages double spaced or 3000-3750 words, excluding references, Times New Roman or Arial 12-point font, 2.54cm margins)** in which you explore one of the methodologies, approaches or concepts that constitute the core of the course.

There are two overarching goals for this paper. First, it is designed to deepen your critical understanding of the enduring dilemmas of language teaching, and the various topics and issues addressed in this course. Second, the paper provides an opportunity for you to integrate your reflections on your own personal and professional language teaching and learning experiences into your scholarly paper.

Step 2

Take it as an example type

There are many options available to you for crafting this paper:

- You can write a **research-oriented position paper**. From an educational researcher perspective position yourself in relation to and critically discuss one of the fundamental methodologies, areas, concepts or issues presented in this course. Aim to support your position on this topic with scholarly research, examples, and any other resources you deem appropriate.
- You can write a **pedagogy-oriented position paper**. From a language educator perspective, position yourself in relation to and critically discuss one of the language teaching methodologies presented in this course. Aim to support your position with pedagogic research, best practices as reported in literature and in your own experience, as well as any other resources you deem appropriate. Some issues you may wish to consider addressing include: (1) the implementation of the methodology in the classroom, (2) exemplar instructional practices based on that methodology, (3) benefits and challenges with its implementation.
- You can write a **comparative paper**, where you select two or more methodologies, and get to know those methodologies in considerable detail – their historical genesis, their theoretical underpinnings, similarities and differences, debates (whether current or past) about their strengths and pitfalls, etc.
- You can **interview** a few language teaching professionals to inquire about their understanding of second language teaching methodologies, and their application of these methodologies in their respective teaching context. You can analyze these practices in relation to the methodologies, issues and concepts we have discussed in the course.
- You can take a **textbook (or any other language teaching resource)** you worked with as a language teacher or learner and compare it to two or more other textbooks. In what ways are the theoretical and practical assumptions the same across these three books? In ways are they different? How do these books reflect the development of second language teaching methodologies as we have read and discussed them? How do they deviate from that development?
- If you have another scholarly approach you would like to use for this paper, please email me so that we can talk more about it first.

① what to do: discuss one teaching methodology presented in the course

② structure of the task: introduction, literature review, discussion: narrow down to a specific context (include yourself), conclusion, reference

Irrespective of how you decide to approach this paper, you should consider your personal and/or professional experiences with language teaching and learning, and analyze what you have learned from the relevant ideas, readings, research evidence, theories and frameworks discussed in the course. Also, indicate what you consider to be the important questions or areas for future research, pedagogy and/or theory building.

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(Continue)

Step 3: Check the technical details

Your paper needs to adhere to the following requirements:

- number of references → • Include at least 10 scholarly references (in APA format). Most of these will likely come from course readings, although you are welcome to use other relevant readings as well.
- writing conventions → • Use the standard conventions for applied linguistic writing (i.e., use APA style guides, include a title, be double-spaced, use 12-point size of Times New Roman or Arial, use 2.54cm margins)
- word count → • 12-15 pages or 3000-3750 words long, excluding references

Due date & platform to submit:

Your paper needs to be submitted on Quercus **by 11:59pm on Tuesday, April 12th**.