Assessment Information

EDUC 5145 Critical research essay

# Task Outline:

In this final course in the suite of Arts Education curriculum and pedagogy courses you will read and reflect upon relevant contemporary research related to issues in Arts teaching and learning. Your readings and the ensuing work in this course should show connection to expectations outlined in the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers. For the first assessment task you will draw on previous course experiences, tutorials presented in this course and also on your observations and conversations in practical placements, to prepare an analytical discussion of a chosen Case Study and compile an organised list of readings with commentary, relevant to your Arts subject teaching. A number of relevant issues pertaining to your art subject area will be discussed and a specific research problem identified which will provide the frame for your list of references and drive the work in Assessment task 2.

The total word count for this task is 2,000 words.

*Your assessment in this course should not be a re-presentation of work completed in other courses. You are asked to identify a specific area of interest which strongly connects to your own arts teaching practice to focus at some depth. If you are passionate about an aspect of your teaching and have planned your action research for PER 2 on that topic, perhaps there is an issue related to this but not the same? It would be an opportunity missed if you choose to repeat research / reading already completed.*

Your submitted assignment will include:

• Analysis of a sample Case Study which relates to teaching and learning in your art subject (500 words)

• Discussion of an issue or area of teaching practice leading to statement of a Research Problem (750 words)

• A list of references relevant to the Research problem, with classifying information and comments, using a provided table (750 words equivalent)

**Assessment Criteria**

Students will be expected to:

* connect research with practice by critically discussing a relevant Case Study including reference to how the study may impact on arts teaching and/or learning (30%)
* articulate a research problem pertinent to current and future practice as an arts educator, including connection to the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers (30%)
* demonstrate knowledge and understanding of relevant literature by identifying, discussing and evaluating resources which relate to the research problem (30%)

*Please see the Marking Rubric, which describes success against the criteria across a range of grade bands and will help you understand what will be looked for in order to achieve your best outcome.*

Part A: Case Study 500 Words

Where are the sample Case Studies?

Under the topic heading ‘Tutorial Materials’ on the course page, in the book titled Topic 2: Case studies - a qualitative research approach, you will find on the last page a long list of examples, including studies in each of the five arts subjects. The examples are either provided as a link to the full paper or a copy of the paper can be found in the folder titled ‘Case Study Examples’ on the course page. You may choose to analytically discuss an example not included on these lists, providing it shows Case Study methods.

Which Case Study is right for me?

It is unlikely that any of the examples provided are directly related to your area of special interest identified as the focus for your work in this course. However, some or all of the following should be true of the study you choose to analyse in this part of the task:

* The Case Study chosen should be related to your arts specialty subject
* The Case Study provides data and findings which are relevant to your teaching practice, where possible making some connection to your research problem.
* The Case Study is either current, or represents seminal understanding.

What will I write about?

What is expected here is more than a description of the chosen Case Study. In Tutorial 2 Jeff provided a very useful list of guiding questions. See his Tutorial Notes uploaded to the course page. You may use this list to prompt your analysis, and always support comments with references where possible. It is expected that you will succinctly identify the features of the study, including critical discussion of aspects such as the methods, data collection tools, data analysis and findings. Go on to discuss how the findings influence aspects of teaching practice in as many ways as you can see. At all times write succinctly.

Part B: Research Problem 750 Words

* Outline the issue, concern or interest which you have decided to explore/ address in this study
* Discuss the subject broadly, then drill into it to explore a number of perspectives related to the topic
* Critically approach the discussion of your topic, then move on to present a clear specific statement of the research problem you will focus on and for which you will go on to search supporting resources, and use to frame the Literature review which will you will do as Assessment task 2. It is important to take care with this step, as it drives the other components in the course. You may wish to refer back to information provided in the tutorial materials and your notes from the tutorials.
* Clearly identify area/s of your teaching practice, with reference to the Australian Standards for Teaching, which will be influenced by your study. Discuss specific examples.
* Include references to relevant articles, texts or reports using suitable Harvard referencing protocols

Part C: References list 750 Words equivalent

In a similar way to the categorising activity you completed in EDUC 5204 Contemporary Practice in Education Research, for this assessment task you are asked to prepare a list of references which you perceive as being of relevance to your research problem. For this initial list you may include a wide range of resources, and you must include work from journals and peer-refereed journals but may also include grey literature if it presents a relevant perspective.

The purpose of this part of the assessment task is to support you to make a solid start in the search for relevant, contemporary references related to your research problem. By annotating references you find at this point in time, and allowing markers to provide feedback to guide your reading further, you will be able to build on this list to move on to the next assessment task. You may use the table below to structure this section of the assessment task, but if you wish to present the same information in an alternative format that will be fine. The headings provide a scaffold for the kind of annotations which would allow you to organise and evaluate references, and you may make any other additional brief comments you feel add to the evaluation.

To include the table in your submitted document, I would recommend you use a landscape orientation for the page/s on which it appears. If you are not already aware of how to achieve this, you might find this explanation helpful:

<http://www.colby.edu/acits/2010/09/17/diff-orientation-word/>

Here is the table template which you may use if you like:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Reference | Author/s | Category of literature | Research problem represented | Recommendations, findings or theories (if available) | Key words | Your additional comments |
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For column 3 of the table, I remind you of the table provided in EDUC 5204, seen below:

