

## Ed.D. Sample Writing Tasks

### Sample #1

One page "Thought Papers"

For certain readings students will be asked to write one-page thought papers evaluating the contribution of the readings, from their own perspective. These papers will be a take off point for class discussions. Papers should follow class requirements for format, be written in full sentences and logical paragraphs. No outlining, no bullets.

### Sample #2

ELPS 780 Article Summary/Critiques

Things to look for and cover:

- researcher's purpose or overall question
- methods: setting, sample, research methods (not teaching methods)
- findings: highlights with examples
- study's credibility, rigor, usefulness as qualitative research
- other strengths or potential weaknesses as a qualitative study
- relevance to your topic: insights, new ideas, new questions raised, etc.

Format: 3-5 pp. DOUBLE SPACED, 12 point; APA style (attach journal abstract for each article); references at end for all articles cited. Mostly in your own words, minimal quotes, no cut and paste from Internet (beware plagiarism). Try to make brief connections or contrasts between the articles, where relevant (for ex.: *Like Reese, Lopez is interested in traditional values underlying immigrant parents' relations with schools. However, he studied this with a much smaller sample in a rural area. . .*).

### Sample # 3

Article Critique

This assignment has two purposes, first to build your research skills by critically analyzing a recent, significant research study related to school reform. Second to build a deep understanding the research which underlies Ravitch's arguments in *The Death and Life of the Great American School System*.

Each student will select one of the required articles to critique. The critique will include the following:

- a brief summary of the article,
- a critique of the appropriateness and effectiveness of the research method employed in relationship to the research questions or hypotheses posed,
- an evaluation of the soundness of the articles findings and conclusions,
- an overall assessment of the contribution of the article.

The students who have chosen to critique a particular the article will form a panel and lead a discussion of the article. The written critique should be no more than 4 pages double spaced.

## Sample #4

### ELPS 760 Professional Application Paper

Candidates will focus on an issue addressed in their Action Research Project and produce a 3-5 page doubled-spaced paper, not including a title- and reference-page, discussing the relevant importance of the issue at their respective school sites and describe their initial plans, as practicing administrators, to effectively address it.

Requirements:

- 1) **Introduce** the idea: What is the problem and its significance generally?
  - a. Introduce your own site and the relevance of the problem (or some component of the problem/question) in that context.
  - b. This is an opportunity to discuss some aspect of the problem from the AR Project as it relates to a context OTHER THAN THE ONE under scrutiny in the AR Project.
  - c. There is no need here to discuss your AR Project; let this paper reflect its own thinking about the SAME PROBLEM (or some component of the same problem) in a DIFFERENT VENUE/CONTEXT.
  
- 2) **Literature:** What is the appropriate and relevant literature about (an aspect of) the problem and its relevance to your school site?
  - a. This is an opportunity to take advantage of some of the literature you utilized for the AR Project generally.
  - b. It is also an opportunity to build on that literature, using scholarship about the same problem, or the aspect you are discussing, in a different setting/context; literature as it relates to this new focus and context under discussion.
  - c. Cite at least 8 relevant sources.
  
- 3) **Application:** What ideas for application, study, and solutions do you have for this same problem in your context?
  - a. This is an opportunity to simply apply (an aspect of) the problem in your context – what does it ‘look like’ in your own place of work and world of influence?
  - b. This is also an opportunity to discuss how this problem might be studied in your context; you are not proposing a study, but rather offering ideas about how/where you might begin to look at this problem in an applied way in your own sphere of influence.
  - c. There is no need for a formal ‘methods’ section, per se, but rather you can offer ideas about where/how you might consider addressing this problem, collecting data on it, or even simply discussing it as it pertains to your context.
  - d. This is also an opportunity to discuss projected solutions to this problem or how you might address the issue in your own context.

## ELPS 760 Rubric

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
<b>Introduction: Content</b>  <b>X2</b>	Introduction addresses all prompts in appropriate, relevant, accurate, and clear or detailed ways.	Introduction addresses all prompts in appropriate, relevant, or accurate ways.	Introduction addresses all prompts in minimal, limited, cursory, inconsistent, and/or ambiguous ways.	Introduction addresses all prompts in inappropriate, irrelevant, inaccurate, or missing ways.
<b>Literature review: Content</b>  <b>X2</b>	Literature review addresses all prompts in appropriate, relevant, accurate, and clear or detailed ways.	Literature review addresses all prompts in appropriate, relevant, or accurate ways.	Literature review addresses all prompts in minimal, limited, cursory, inconsistent, and/or ambiguous ways.	Literature review addresses all prompts in inappropriate, irrelevant, inaccurate, or missing ways.
<b>Application: Content</b>  <b>X2</b>	Application addresses all prompts in appropriate, relevant, accurate, and clear or detailed ways.	Application addresses all prompts in appropriate, relevant, or accurate ways.	Application addresses all prompts in minimal, limited, cursory, inconsistent, and/or ambiguous ways.	Application addresses all prompts in inappropriate, irrelevant, inaccurate, or missing ways.
<b>Conclusion: Content</b>	Conclusion addresses all prompts in appropriate, relevant, accurate, and clear or detailed ways.	Conclusion addresses all prompts in appropriate, relevant, or accurate ways.	Conclusion addresses all prompts in minimal, limited, cursory, inconsistent, and/or ambiguous ways.	Conclusion addresses all prompts in inappropriate, irrelevant, inaccurate, or missing ways.
<b>References</b>	References are submitted in an appropriate, relevant, accurate, and clear or detailed way and contain more than 8 sources.	References are submitted in an appropriate, relevant, or accurate way, and contain at least 8 sources.	References are submitted in a minimal, limited, cursory, inconsistent, and/or ambiguous way, and contain fewer than 8 sources.	References are submitted in an inappropriate, irrelevant, inaccurate, or missing way.
<b>Submission</b>	Application paper is submitted on time and is between 3-5 pages.	Application paper is submitted on time, but is greater than 5 pages.	Application paper is submitted on time, but is fewer than 3 pages.	Application paper is not submitted on time.
<b>Submission</b>	Application paper follows APA format and contains no grammatical errors.	Application paper follows APA format and contains 1-5 grammatical errors.	Application paper follows APA format and contains 6-10 grammatical errors.	Application paper follows APA format and contains more than 10 grammatical errors.