

Assignment Prompt

Directions

Purpose

Analyze the prompt for comprehensibility. Evaluate overall clarity and salience of components (See Task). Determine implications for learners who receive assignments like this one.

Task

Review prompt first independently and then again with seatmate(s) near you. Feel free to take notes, underline, or otherwise annotate the prompt as you like. Identify (1) the purpose, (2) steps in the task, and (3) criteria for success. How clear is the prompt overall? How salient are its components? Does this prompt set learners up for success? Why or why not?

Criteria for Success

Do you have an answer to all four questions? Can you point to some concrete examples from the prompt to illustrate your views?

Prompt Language

Format

Use APA formatting, 700 to 1,200 words (not counting references), 12-point font, Times New Roman, double-space

Choose and read a novel that takes place in a school or that has learning as its subject. Refer to the reading list provided if you cannot find a novel that is a good fit. Lifelong learning or adult learners are acceptable: not all learning takes place in a traditional classroom.

Present and describe the themes and main ideas to focus on the novel. Evaluate how the student(s) is portrayed and consider how a "good" student is defined by society at large based on what you read in the novel. Introduce us to our main characters. Discuss the barriers and challenges they encounter. Tell how they overcome these issues and what they learn from the process. Connect this to your own learning experiences and what you learned about being a self-directed adult learner from the theme and the plight of the main characters and how they changed.

Reflect on the novel by connecting what happens to previous reading assignments from class. Tie the novel to your own lived experience and what you have learned about being a self-directed student in this class. Be specific. Don't just insert long quotes from the texts. Instead, use your own words to restate the arguments in the readings and demonstrate your deep understanding. What did you learn from the novel you chose? Don't just give your opinion and say the novel backs it up. Illustrate your thoughts with specifics from the novel. Talk about what changed your viewpoints.

Pose relevant questions about what makes a good learner based on the circumstances and scenarios from the novel. Then, do some additional research to incorporate added information that will benefit your future learning as you pursue your learning goals. Incorporate your own opinions and tie the readings and new research to your own experiences and viewpoints. Include a one-paragraph conclusion tying everything together and giving a call to action about learning.

