

## Original Assignment for Makeover

### Journal Article Assignment

Students will find and read three professional articles in early childhood journals related to families. Each journal article must be research-based, containing information about a study and/or research. In addition, journal articles selected for this assignment should not be more than 5 years old.

**After reading each professional journal article, write a summary of the article. The article review should:**

- Include the article citation using APA format (see examples below)

Author last name, first initial. (Year, Month Day of publication). Title of article. *Name of Periodical, Volume, issue number*, [or other ID number], Page number or range. Retrieved from URL

Example of Reference using APA guidelines:

VandenBos, G., Knapp, S., & Doe, J. (2001). Role of reference elements in the selection of resources by psychology undergraduates. *Journal of Bibliographic Research*, 5, 117-123. Retrieved from  
http://www.usc.edu/psych/ref

- include a paragraph summarizing the article
- include a paragraph about the main idea of the article
- include a conclusion paragraph about the article reviewed and why you found the topic of interest to you and the early childhood profession

### Read the assignment and instructions

Consider:

1. **What is the purpose of the assignment?**
2. **How could it be enhanced to more specifically include children with disabilities and children who are culturally and linguistically diverse?**
3. **How could you adapt the assignment so it requires students to apply what they have learned?**

### PARTICIPANT RESPONSES:

**The Purpose of the Assignment is to:**

- Practice searching for articles as well as summarizing professional articles.
- Purpose = 1) practice research skills to ID ECE articles related to families; 2) Summarize key ideas from research article; 3) Apply key concepts to own professional practice
- Give students a research opportunity to learn about the role of families in early care and education. Students research by finding and research articles and then the "learning" will occur during the summary, highlight of main ideas, and conclusion for reflective thinking
- Examine the ECE literature; identify research; summarize research
- Expose learners to professional journal articles, read and summarize them, and use APA citation.
- Learn more about families as it applies to your role as a professional.

- Prove you can summarize what you read in an article, conduct an article search (i.e. using library, search engine), identify research-based articles and properly cite them. My guess is the instructor would like more of a purpose, but this is what they asked for :)
- Familiarize students with professional journals in the field. It also keeps them current with current trends. And it gives them opportunities to utilize their much needed writing skills.
- Introduce students to current ECE journals and practice summarizing key ideas from articles.
- Become familiar with professional journals and develop the ability to extract relevant information while using the APA standards of our field.
- Help students become comfortable with using and documenting creditable research articles. It also helps them with writing.
- Get students familiar with locating and reviewing research-based early childhood articles and applying that information to their practices as an early childhood professional.
- Determine support students may need to look for articles and be able to decipher them
- Instruct students on finding current peer reviewed or researched based articles to help students keep current on appropriate knowledge and practices.
- For students to be able to identify research based journals. Since we are working with AD programs I might provide a list of journals for them to start looking and almost doing a comparison of what type of articles are typically published in different journals
- To read and comprehend and summarize a recent article related to families, and to discuss why chosen.
- Locate, select, read, summarize, and draw conclusions in writing from scholarly research on families
- Give students practice with research skills: finding articles, citing them correctly, and summarizing the content.
- Read three professional, research-based articles and to summarize them.
- To aid students in how to narrow down topics, how to research

**Enhancements to more specifically include children with disabilities and children who are culturally and linguistically diverse**

- To support students with disabilities think of other ways to allow student to show their learning:
- To adapt it for children with special needs/children who are CLD, you might require students to ensure at least 2 of the 3 articles focus specifically on evidence-based teaching practices designed for those populations.
- Adding a reflection question about if/how the article relates to diverse children and families OR requiring one of the articles to specifically relate to this.
- Have students select articles specifically on families of children with disabilities and/or from culturally or linguistically diverse families.
- The articles chosen could pertain specifically to children with disabilities or cultural or linguistic diversity.
- My immediate thought is that the instructions should include that the articles should be focused on children and families that are culturally and linguistically
- Have students evaluate the extent to which the articles actually address children with disabilities and/or those from cultural or linguistically diverse families.

- Enhance for CLAD - require that the journal article addresses a particular diversity that you want to highlight (dual language learners, children with diverse abilities - maybe young children with autism);
- Since students are to choose which article to use and there is some criteria for their selection, you may wish to include a directive to choose at least one article that represents or reflects diverse families
- Specify the topics for the professional articles to include one on working with exceptional families and one on working with bilingual families
- List specific topics for the articles including children with disabilities and linguistically diverse.
- Require that at least one article be about families who have a child with a disability and one article about diverse families
- Change assignment to read articles in EC journals related to families with children with diverse abilities, and/or diverse cultural and language background.
- Enhance to include children with disabilities: How might the research apply specifically to children of diverse abilities? What questions might you ask about how this might apply to children from diverse or trauma informed backgrounds?
- Adapt the instructions to state...Include specific information (Cite your sources in-text and reference) the article shares about children with disabilities, or diverse family contexts.
- Be more specific about the type of articles relating to families such as culturally/abilities a wide diversified group

#### **Adapting the assignment so it requires students to apply what they have learned**

- Include a paragraph describing some of the ways that the article's content are applicable to your life experiences and how you might use this information in your work with children.
- The last paragraph response could require the student to describe one new practice that they will use as a result of what they learned from the journal article.
- The student could also find a video clip that illustrates the teacher-child interaction, practice, or application to share in an online format class.
- After reading the articles, choose one and design a family activity or newsletter that shares the relevant information with your families in your program.
- This assignment could be adapted by asking students to answer a prompt such as - "Choose a strategy or idea from one of the articles you read that you have used in a setting with children. Write a paragraph about what you did, how it worked, and what further you learned about the strategy from the article you read."
- How to ... You could also have the students contain a paragraph on how they would use the information or apply the information into their own classrooms.
- Students can extend this assignment to practical use by creating a family event related to the topic (a parent education event for instance)
- Ask whom you would share this information with
- Would this article be helpful to share with parents?