

INDIVIDUAL TERM PAPER GUIDELINES

SNE4200/3200 - Education for Learners with Special Needs

DL: 27.3.2024 by 2pm (14.00)

Goal

The student shall acquire knowledge and deeper understanding of a specific topic related to the course contents in the SNE 4200/3200.

Topic

1. Related to the key area of the course SNE 4200/3200 -Education for Learners with Special Needs.

Choose a different topic or view than what you had in the group assignment. The key areas in the course are the following:

- Minorities and cultural and linguistical challenges
- Cognition, speech, and language
- Reading and numeracy
- Sensory functions (vision and hearing) and movement related functions
- Intellectual developmental disabilities
- Psychosocial functioning.

2. Discuss the innovative process, relating to the environmental conditions and learner's disabilities and/or individual characteristics. Include information on aspects of planning, implementing and evaluation.

Process of writing your individual paper

Follow the steps below in the process of producing your individual term paper (which is following similar steps as the group assignment). **More detailed instructions about paper structure, content and formatting can be found on the next page.**

Step 1:

- From the chosen topic formulate a problem and/or questions
- Use your specific problem/question as a starting point to search for information to gain in depth insights, knowledge and understanding

Step 2:

- Search for information to answer the problem and/or question(s)
- Search for and read literature that has relevance to illuminate the problem
- Select literature and write notes from the literature that you use in your paper

Step 3:

- Create a synthesis of the information you discovered from the literature and write the results of your findings

Step 4:

- Highlight the most important findings
- Interpret and reflect on the highlighted findings (e.g., evidence-based strategies and challenges related to your topic based on what you discovered from the literature)
- Summarize the main themes related to the problem and conclude

Step 5:

- Reflect on the process

Individual paper in SNE4200/3200 (3500-4000 words, excluding references)

Use the following structure and main headings when writing your individual paper.

1. Introduction (approx. 15% of the word count)

- Background and introduction (a short introduction to the topic leading into a specific problem statement you have chosen)
 - What is your topic?
 - Why have you chosen the topic? What led to the topic? (e.g., specific student case from real life or imaginary case) or just general interest in the topic (e.g., perhaps something you have seen in media, heard colleagues talking about, something you learned in the lectures/from other students' group presentations, something else that led to the topic etc).
 - What do you want to learn? Why?
- Problem statement and/or question(s)
 - Formulate a question you answer in your paper using the literature. No need to describe the search process of the literature.

2. Results from the literature search (approx. 40%)

- Present the main findings of the literature, highlighting central themes of the chosen problem/topic
- Use sub-headings to focus on the different themes (you name the sub-headings)

3. Discussion (approx. 35%)

- Highlight the most important findings
- Interpret and reflect on the highlighted findings (e.g., evidence-based strategies and challenges related to your topic based on what you discovered from the literature)
- Implications for practice and future research: reflect and discuss the findings in relation to practice and future studies

4. Conclusion (approx. 10%)

- Individual reflection notes represent the students' meta-reflection of their learning outcome and process working with the individual assignment (e.g., reflect on your learning -- what did you learn? etc.)

Technical Formalities

The written text should **min. 3500 words, max. 4000 words** - excluding cover page, table of contents, references, and possible appendices.

- Line spacing 1.5
- Letter size 12 for the main text, font "Times New Roman"
- Larger letter size for the headings (14)
- Use APA-7 Reference Guide:
https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/index.html
- **Do not use your name** in any part of the paper as it must be anonymous for grading purposes!

Term paper grading (A-F)

Grade	Evaluation of the individual paper	
A	The assignment has been prepared to an excellent standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The paper demonstrates outstanding critical thinking and reflection that provides an excellently reasoned view on the chosen topic. - The reporting is very clear and follows a clear academic structure to an excellent standard. - Wide variety of relevant sources referenced, including up to date literature (e.g., peer-reviewed articles). Sources are used analytically to develop ideas to an excellent standard.
B	The assignment has been prepared to a very good standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The paper demonstrates a very good degree of critical thinking and reflection that provides a well-reasoned view on the chosen topic. - The reporting is clear and follows a clear academic structure to a very good standard. - Various relevant sources referenced, including up to date literature (e.g., peer-reviewed articles). Sources are used analytically to a very good standard.
C	The assignment has been prepared to a good level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The paper demonstrates some critical thinking and reflection, and generally follows the assignment guidelines. - The reporting is somewhat clear and follows an academic structure to a good standard. - Some relevant sources referenced, with limited up-to date articles. Sources are used somewhat analytically, but often more descriptively.
D	The assignment has been prepared to a satisfactory level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The paper demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of the assignment, but with limitations in relation to critical thinking and reflection. - The reporting is less clear and less academic in style. - Limited use of relevant sources and up-to-date literature. Sources are used descriptively with limited or no analysis.
E	Efforts have been made to prepare the assignment to a sufficient level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The paper demonstrates a sufficient response but is weakly focused on the assignment guidelines. - The reporting is understandable but unclear and does not adhere to academic reporting standards. The reporting lacks depth in thinking and reflection, or it is entirely absent. - Very limited use of relevant sources and up-to-date literature. Sources are used only descriptively; information is scattered.
F	The assignment is incomplete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does not meet the minimum academic requirements of the assignment.

See also UiO general descriptions of letter grades from:

<https://www.uio.no/english/studies/examinations/grades/index.html>