

Student Case Study Assignment

In order to effectively teach your students, it is critical that you know who they are and how they learn best. For this assignment, you will choose 2 students from your practicum placement that represent the diversity of your classroom (e.g., students that perform and participate differently from one another by ability, language, culture, etc.) and get to know more about them by completing a case study. In the case study, you will investigate the academic, cultural/linguistic, and personal characteristics of your students to better inform your instruction. Then, you will consider how these characteristics could be leveraged to support your science instruction. Later, you will use your knowledge of these students to help guide your final science unit plan development.

The questions below serve as samples to guide your research, but you are not required to secure answers for each of these questions and may gather information not included on these lists. ***Your guiding question should be: "What do I need to know about this student to be able teach them science in a responsive and relevant way?"***

Academic Characteristics

- How does your student learn best? During what types of activities do they appear to be particularly engaged and participatory?
- Where does your student struggle academically? During which types of activities do they show less enthusiasm?
- Which subject areas (inclusive of art, music, PE, etc.) are their favorites and why? Which are their least favorite and why?
- What learning supports does the student receive/qualify for (e.g., gifted education, ESL services, special education services)?

Cultural/Linguistic Characteristics

- What language does your student speak at home? In the classroom (if other than English)?
- Where was your student born? From what country or region is their family from?
- Who is in their family/with whom do they live? What role(s)/job(s) do they take on at home?
- What religion (if any) does their family practice (even if just culturally, e.g., celebrating the key religious holidays but not necessarily attending weekly services)?

Personal Characteristics

- What does your student like and dislike?
- What does your student do in their free time (at school and at home)?
- Who is/are the child's heroes/people that they admire?
- What does the student like to do during class breaks/recess?
- How does the student interact with their peers?

Data sources could include: informal conversations with your students, analysis of written work or other school work, observations of your students during academic and non-academic tasks, discussions with your mentor teacher or other support personnel/teachers, student surveys, discussions with parents, and so forth.

Each case study should be 400-600 words in length and should (1) describe the student based on the three categories above; and (2) identify how the information you gathered could inform your science instruction (e.g., how could you use your knowledge of what your student likes/does outside of class/etc. to teach science?). ***You must use pseudonyms to protect your students' identities.***

Note: You can find [expectations for the entire unit linked here](#).

Student Case Study Assignment Rubric



Criteria	Ratings			Pts
Assignment Expectations	2 pts Meets Expectations Submission addresses two students from differing backgrounds that are representative of the larger class. Both case studies fall within the prescribed 400-600 word limit and show evidence of proofreading.	1 pts Approaching Expectations One of the following is missing: Submission addresses two students from differing backgrounds that are representative of the larger class. Both case studies fall within the prescribed 400-600 word limit and show evidence of proofreading.	0 pts Does Not Meet Expectations Two or more of the following are missing: Submission addresses two students from differing backgrounds that are representative of the larger class. Both case studies fall within the prescribed 400-600 word limit and show evidence of proofreading.	2 pts
Case Study 1	3 pts Nailed It! Case study describes academic, cultural/linguistic, and personal characteristics of the student and shows depth of investigation from numerous data sources.	1.5 pts Starting To Case study shows some depth of research but may not have addressed one or more of the characteristic categories (academic, cultural/linguistic, personal) and/or taken into consideration multiple data sources.	0 pts No Submission Case Study 1 was missing.	3 pts
Case Study 2	3 pts Nailed It! Case study describes academic, cultural/linguistic, and personal characteristics of the student and shows depth of investigation from numerous data sources.	1.5 pts Starting To Case study shows some depth of research but may not have addressed one or more of the characteristic categories (academic, cultural/linguistic, personal) and/or taken into consideration multiple data sources.	0 pts No Submission Case Study 2 was missing.	3 pts
Implications for Teaching	2 pts Meets Expectations At least 2 implications for future science instruction are identified for EACH case study.	1 pts Approaching Expectations One or fewer implications for future science instruction were identified for one of the case studies.	0 pts Does Not Meet Expectations One or fewer implications for future science instruction were identified for both case studies.	2 pts
Total Points: 10				