

Draft 1 – Preliminary Case Study Design (10%)

Instructions: Use this instructional document to prepare your first draft of the case study.

Research Title: (maximum 15 words)

- Your title should clearly state the topic and context of your study.
 - **Sample:** Factors that Influence Participation in Unstructured Conversation: A Case Study of 15 High School Students

Topic Summary: (200-300 words)

- Your topic summary section should contain the following:
 - **Statement of purpose:** main objective (action + phenomenon), case (who or what), context (where), and data collection method(s).
 - **Sample:** “The purpose of this study is to explore the factors that influence student’s willingness to participate in unstructured conversation activities in a group of 15 ninth grade students at a rural high school in the Cartago province of Costa Rica. Data collection methods used in this case study include student surveys, in depth interviews of two teachers, and lesson observation reports.”
 - **Topic:** Introduce the broad topic of the study (ex. L2 listening) and include necessary definitions and data. Even though this is a qualitative study, you can cite statistical data from the literature to describe the general topic.
 - **Sample:** Unstructured conversation activities can be defined as... According to ..., the ability to successfully maintain a conversation involves several subskills including... and... (This needs to be longer).
 - **Problem:** Finish by briefly describing the specific problem area you want to focus on (ex. Challenges in L2 listening, strategies students use in L2 listening, the connection between student motivation and L2 listening).
 - **Sample:** Despite the evidence demonstrating the positive effects that unstructured conversation opportunities have on learners’ developing language competence, many teachers have noticed a reluctance of students to participate ... (This needs to be longer.)

Justification: (200-300 words)

- Your justification should contain the following:
 - **Importance of the Problem:** Why is this an important problem to investigate?
 - **Deficiencies in Evidence:** What are some gaps in the current knowledge about this topic according to past research or personal experience?
 - **Potential Audience(s):** Who will potentially benefit from this study?

Research Question(s):

- Include one central research question and at least two sub-questions with the following characteristics:
 - It specifically addresses the research problem
 - It can be answered through your research
 - It avoids prespecifying a conclusion
 - **Sample Central Research Question**
 - **Central Question:** What factors influence students’ motivation to participate in unstructured conversation activities among a group of 15 ninth grade EFL students at a rural high school in Costa Rica.
 - **Sub Question 1:** What are the students’ perceptions about these kinds of activities?

[illegible]

Format and evaluation rubric for draft 1

		NC	PC	C
1. Research title (1%)	Title summarizes the main idea of the case study. Must be concise and must not exceed 15 words.	0	0,5	1
2. Summary of the topic	A summary of the topic is written clearly and concretely. Its length should be between 200 and 300 words.	0	0,5	1
3. Justification (2%)	The justification must show the importance of investigating the proposed topic and its length for this draft must be between 200 and 300 words.	0	1	2
4. Research Question (2%)	The research question makes explicit what the case study intends to answer. It must be original and focused on a very well-defined aspect so that it is viable to respond with a research project that is developed within the term of the course. In addition, it must be agreed upon with the institution, so that it is of interest to the company in which the internship is carried out.	0	1	2
5. General and specific objectives (2%)	The objectives must be formulated in a coherent way with the research question. It is suggested to set a single general objective and between 2 or 3 specific objectives. They must be limited enough so that they can be achieved within the term of the course.	0	1	2
6. Theoretical framework (1%)	A bulleted list of the main concepts and theories from which the problem is analyzed is provided.	0	0,5	1
7. Work Schedule (1%)	It presents in detail the list of activities needed to develop the research and specifies the dates on which they will be carried out. It must be a viable proposition.	0	0,5	1

Scale: NC- Does NOT comply, PC- Partially Complies, C- Complies