

Article Mediation

English for Special Educators B, Autumn 2024

Objectives

This task is conceived to develop the following skills:

- **Reading comprehension:** Students read and process the content of a research article to identify and summarize the main ideas accurately.
- **Note-taking:** Students need to take effective notes to remember the main ideas of the article and be able to convey them to their peers.
- **Oral communication:** Students need to effectively communicate their ideas to their peers, using clear and concise language.
- **Interaction:** Students need to interact effectively with their peers, checking for understanding and answering questions.
- **Language use:** Students need to use correct grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation to communicate their ideas effectively.

This can help students improve their overall language proficiency and develop essential skills useful in academic and professional settings.

Instructions

Choose an article on a topic that interests you. **Make sure you upload the link to your article into the dedicated sign-up sheet for your instructor to check if it is appropriate. You can proceed with the article only after it has been approved.**

Read the article at home and take notes. Process your notes and upload them to the designated homework vault. **You should upload your notes a week before the mediation, i.e., by the end of Week 9, so your colleagues and instructor can read them in advance.**

The mediation will take place instead of the regular in **week 12**. You will meet in **small groups of 3 or 4 people**. The instructor will be responsible for the schedule.

How to choose your article

The article for the task must comply with the following criteria:

- on a **topic in the field of special education** that interests you from an **academic journal** (e.g., [The Journal of Special Education](#))
- written in **English**
- on **original research with implications for teaching** - it must not be a book review or *přehledová studie*, for example

You can find a suitable article by:

- asking your bachelor's **thesis supervisor**
- checking your course **reading lists**
- doing an **online search** in the [ERIC database](#), [JSTOR database](#)
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- , or in [Google Scholar](#)

If you are not sure how to search for articles in the ERIC database, you can watch [this video](#).

Guidelines

In performing this task, keep in mind the following:

- **Fully understanding the content:** a complete understanding of the article's content will lead to an accurate and complete mediation.
- **Effective organization:** organizing the thoughts and ideas from the article (not necessarily in the same order they were presented in) will make your mediation clear and coherent. You can try different note-taking techniques.
- **Effective communication:** communicate the content clearly and concisely using language that is easy to understand. Put yourself in your peers' shoes.
- **Interaction with your peers:** engage with your peers by checking for understanding, asking or answering questions.

Date and Format

Week 12 (13)

If there are students who miss class due to illness or other serious reasons but still want to complete the task, they can do so in Week 13. Alternatively, instructors may combine students from different seminar groups.

Assessment Criteria

Your presentation will be assessed on the following criteria:

Comprehension

The student demonstrates a deep and accurate understanding of the article, accurately identifying and summarizing the main ideas, arguments, evidence, and conclusions.

Mediation

The student effectively mediates the content of the article to their peers, using clear and concise language to convey the main ideas and show the logical connections between them.

Interaction

The student effectively interacts with their peers, encouraging participation, checking understanding, and answering questions clearly and confidently. As an audience member, they ask at least two relevant questions.

Language use

You demonstrate excellent control of a wide range of vocabulary and grammar structures suitable for the task and appropriate for the B1 level of English proficiency. You are able to summarize and paraphrase.

Pronunciation and intonation

Pronunciation and intonation are excellent, with clear enunciation of words and appropriate stress patterns. There are only minor errors that do not impede understanding.