

Portfolio of Study Skills
Assessment Tasks

Part 1

In part one of this assessment i am going to rewrite a paragraph that contains errors to demonstrate my understanding of formal, standard english, which is expected as part of academic style, accurate spelling, the correct use of punctuation including commas, apostrophes and full stops and finally well written sentences which makes grammatical sense.

“In Iceland and other countries like that they thinks its really important that kids are playing outdoors in their life. Some people wrote about government papers which says that outdoors is good for kids. In the curriculum guidelines, they puts a big thing on outside as learning environments as a place for making kids think good about the natural world, and as a place where you can do things like exercising and healthy living cos that’s what Norodahl and Johannesson (2013) say. This emphasising on outdoors has happened for a long time in Iceland for kids age 1 to six and they play outside everyday in schools for kids six to 16 then they only get to play out with their mates when its playtime. We do’nt know much about what teachers do outside to help learning but I think it is probably gunna be really really different depending on what teacher you get and school. But there are signs in Iceland that teachers are using outside more than they used to and in Reyjkavik the capital seventy % of schools say that they do outside education quite a bit (Oladottir, 2008). Adapted from: Noradahl, K. and Johannesson, I. (2014) ‘Icelandic teachers’ views of using the outdoors’ Education 3-13: International Journal of Primary, Elementary and Early Years Education. Vol 44, No. 4, September 2014, 391-406”

My rewritten paragraph:

In Iceland and countries with similar perspectives, they believe that outdoor interaction for children throughout their life is necessary. Local newspaper editors wrote that the Government felt this way about outdoor interaction for children also. In the curriculum guidelines, they emphasized that an outdoor learning area for children to learn gave children a better understanding of nature and the world and was better for their health as they could exercise and eat healthier and gain an understanding of fruits and vegetables and where some of their food comes from; this made them more likely to eat them- Nordahl and Johannesson (2003).

The emphasis on outdoor learning began a long time ago in Iceland for children aged one to six when they were given time everyday in school to interact outdoors. For children ages between six and sixteen they are then only given time for outdoor interaction in their breaks between lessons. Although all these actions have been put in place, there have been reports in Iceland that teachers are using the outdoor education time more than expected and in the Capital of Iceland, Reykjavik, 70% of schools say that they participate in outdoor education. (Oladottir, 2008).

Part 2a

In this part of the portfolio, the text below contains many errors including incorrect use of Harvard referencing conventions. I am going to rewrite the paragraph and the reference list to demonstrate my understanding of formal, standard English which is expected as part of academic style; accurate spelling; correct use of punctuation including commas, apostrophes and full stops; well written sentences which make grammatical sense and careful, accurate use of Harvard referencing conventions.

This is the text with the errors:

This essay will be about forest schools. A definition of Forest School has been made by the Forest School Network it says that 'it is an inspirational process that offers children, young people and adults regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence and self esteem though hands on learning experiences in a woodland environment". Murray and O'Brien 2006. People are a bit worried that little ones in school now don't get to go to woodlands and green places like there parents did because they are to worried that something will happen about them and kids can do loads indoors now and that's what O'Brien and Murray think. There is also research that tells us that if they don't go when they are young then they wont go when they are grown up either and we will miss out on physical and emotional benefits of access to nature. Ward Thompson and Aspinall and Bell and others 2004. That's because learning outdoors is very different to learning in a classroom environment and the welsh government are encouraging teachers to do forest school in they're own schools now, especially in foundation phase.

Reference List:

welsh assembly government. Outdoor Learning Handbook. Cardiff: 2009. WAG.

Ward Thompson, C., Aspinall, P., Bell, S., Findlay, C., Wherrett, J. and Travlou, P. Open space and social inclusion: Local woodland use in central Scotland. Report to the Forestry Commission, Edinburgh, 2004.

2006. E. O'Brien and R. Murray, A marvellous opportunity for children to learn: A participatory evaluation of Forest School in England and Wales, Farnham: Forest Research.

My rewritten paragraph:

In this essay i am going to be talking about Forest Schools. The Forest School Network define a Forest School as 'An inspirational process that offers children, young people and adults regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence and self esteem through hands on learning experiences in a woodland environment.' - Murray & O'Brien (2006).

Kylie Richards

Many people started getting concerned that young children in school now don't get the outdoors experience like Forest Schools. There is also research that tells us that if children don't attend Forest Schools whilst they are young then they will suffer in their adolescence as they will not have experienced the physical and emotional benefits that nature has to offer- Thompson & Aspinall (2004).

The government are encouraging teachers to incorporate Forest School experiences into mainstream schools, especially in the foundation phase.

Reference List:

welsh assembly government. Outdoor Learning Handbook. Cardiff: 2009. WAG.

Ward Thompson, C., Aspinall, P., Bell, S., Findlay, C., Wherrett, J. and Travlou, P. Open space and social inclusion: Local woodland use in central Scotland. Report to the Forestry Commission, Edinburgh, 2004.

2006. E. O'Brien and R. Murray, A marvellous opportunity for children to learn: A participatory evaluation of Forest School in England and Wales, Farnham: Forest Research.

Part 2b

In this section i am going to answer all the questions as fully as possible.

If you fail to acknowledge the source of your information in academic writing, you could be accused of **plagiarism**? Why is it important that students avoid this?

It is important to avoid this as work needs to be credited correctly. If the author isn't credited correctly then plagiarism is then undertaken and you can get penalized.

You only have to reference when you use a direct quotation. Is this True or False? Explain your answer.

Wikipedia is a good place to search for information for your academic assignments. Explain, with reasons, whether you believe this statement is true or false.

Write a set of instructions which could be included in a referencing guide which explains how to present a very long quotation.

Explain how you can begin to conduct research for an academic assignment. Identify five sources which would be acceptable for academic study.