

ECAD7004/6010 Assignment 2023/24

Section	Suggested word count (4500 total)
Aim, focus and purpose of the research / Research Context What is the aim of the essay? What was the issue that you wanted to address in your research? Why were you interested in this? How does it link to your PLP? BRIEFLY note the school context within which the research took place. (You need to give information only if it is relevant to the research question. For example, there is no need to give details of the percentage of pupils with ALN / FSM eligibility if this has no bearing on your research topic.) BRIEFLY note the context of the class within which your research took place. What is your research question?	300
Overview of relevant literature. This section should be based on your research topic. It should consist of a discussion of literature that relates to your study / research question. Remember to: • Summarise and synthesise: give an overview of the main points of each source and combine them into a coherent whole; • Analyse and interpret: don't just paraphrase other researchers. If possible, discuss the significance of the findings in relation to the literature as a whole; • Critically evaluate: mention the strengths and weaknesses of your sources, consider the author(s) and their expertise; • Write in well-structured paragraphs: use transitions and topic sentences to draw connections, comparisons and contrasts. What is the relevance of this literature to your own study? How has this literature led you to form your research question? Do you hope to fill a gap in the current literature? Are you taking the research of another author further within your school/class context?	800
Explanation of Case Study What is Case Study research? Refer to relevant literature to explain the purpose of using a Case Study approach. What are its strengths and limitations?	600

Who will the participants be in your case study? If relevant, discuss the method that you used to ensure a representative sample.	
Research methods Write about the research methods that you chose to include in your research study; e.g. observation, interview, questionnaire, another method. For each method, discuss these points: • What does the literature tell us? • What are the strengths and limitations of the method? • Explain your observation schedule / interview questions / questionnaire questions / other method. Have you used a specific structure? (closed or open questions, tick boxes etc.); a specific scale? (e.g. Leuven) • Discuss any information that had an impact on the research method, e.g. the age or attainment of pupils. • Refer back to the literature wherever possible. • Remember to refer to your research tools, which you should label individually (Appendix 1, Appendix 2 etc.) and include these in your appendices.	1000
Data Presentation and Analysis Method(s) Explain the method(s) that you will use to report your data. Refer to relevant literature to support your decisions. Include information about any processes that you carried out to ensure trustworthiness (credibility, transferability, dependability and confirmability) if relevant.	400
Ethical considerations Explain any ethical considerations that would be relevant to your study. You should include information about anonymity and confidentiality. You must discuss the process that you carried out in order to gain pupil assent. Remember to refer explicitly to your Ethics Form, which you will include in your appendices.	300
Results / Analysis of results / Discussion The content of this section will depend on the research methods that you have used.	700

Once you have presented the data and discussed it, you should consider: What does the data mean? What did I find out? • What does that mean for my class/the participants/the school? • How does this link to literature?	
Conclusions Critically examine the work that you undertook when preparing for your research study; for example: • Would the methods of collecting data be reliable within your context? • How valid would the methods be? • Would the findings be able to be generalised? • What would you like to do in future in terms of carrying out research? • How might this link to the Professional Standards? (You could merge the Conclusions with the Recommendations section if you prefer.)	200
Recommendations What recommendations would you make in light of your research? Is there an intervention that you would like to put in place to address an issue that you have found? How might your findings be taken forward to inform further research?	200
Reference List	
Appendices These must include: • Any research tools that you created, e.g. Observation Schedule, Interview Questions, Questionnaire, details of any other research method. • Ethics Form • Blank parental consent letter and details of the method used in order to gain pupil assent These can include: • Lesson Plan (if relevant) • Anything else that you think would be useful so that the reader can fully understand your research study.	

At Level 7, you should aim to write most or all of your essay in the **third person** and in the **passive voice**.

When reflecting on your own practice or experience or when explaining reasons for your choices with regard to, for example, your research question, **you may write in the first person** if you would prefer to do so.

The essay should be written in the **past tense**.

NB. Take care that you do not plagiarise your own work from other assignments. If you decide to refer to authors that you have previously written about in another assignment, you will need to paraphrase your own words to ensure that you do not self-plagiarise.