

ECGE4001 - Portfolio of Study Skills

Assessment Tasks

Part 1

The paragraph below contains many errors. Re-write the paragraph to demonstrate your understanding of:

- ***Use 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.***

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.

Part 2a

The text below also contains many errors, which includes incorrect use of Harvard referencing conventions. Re-write both the paragraph and the reference list to demonstrate your understanding of:

- ***Use 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;***
- ***Careful, accurate use of Harvard referencing conventions.***

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 through 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.

Part 2b

Answer all questions below **as fully** as possible.

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

Part 3

Write a critical response to an article.

Structuring your critical response:

- Begin by **introducing** your article briefly.
 - Include a few opening sentences that identify the author(s) and the title, and briefly explain the topic of the text.
 - Can you identify the aim of the text?
- **Summarise** the article.
 - What is the main finding or key argument that is being used by the writer?
What do you think the author's purpose/intentions are throughout the text?
(Tip – this may not always be obvious and you may need to 'read between the lines'. If so, some (limited) examples may help illustrate your points).
- Comment on the **structure** of the article. Think about how the text has been organised, as this may be done in a deliberate way to help the reader organise their thoughts, or even to persuade us. Consider:
 - use of paragraphs
 - length of paragraphs
 - linking words between paragraphs
 - use of statistics/ numbers within article
 - use of appendices.
- Comment on the **language** of the article. You should think about whether the writing style suits the intended audience (e.g. expert/non expert, academic etc). Explore:
 - style used – formal, informal
 - easy to read, difficult to read
 - accuracy
 - use of persuasive language
 - use of objective language
 - use of subjective language.
- Comment on the **evidence** and **reasoning** within the article. You could use these questions to help you consider this aspect:
 - Is there a clear problem, statement or hypothesis?
 - What claims are made?
 - Is the argument consistent?
 - What kinds of evidence does the text rely on?
 - How valid and reliable is the evidence?
 - How effective is the evidence in supporting the argument?
 - What conclusions are drawn?
 - Are these conclusions justified?

- **Write a conclusion** regarding the article. This is usually a fairly short paragraph.
 - Restate your overall opinion of the text.
 - Briefly present recommendations.
 - If necessary some further qualification or explanation of your judgement can be included. This can help your critique sound fair and reasonable.
 - Overall, is it an appropriate academic article?
- Write a **reference list**- accurately constructed. Include the article itself in the reference list as well as any other reading you may have done to help you respond to the task.