

Case-study presentation: Assignment overview

As part of a small group, you will present to the class a new “case study” (published research paper) corresponding to one of the chapters from our textbook. This presentation will be aimed at a “knowledgable” audience, that is, your peers in the class who have at least some background in linguistics ideas.

Each group will have 3–4 members. I will provide a form via Canvas for sign-ups; you will be asked to submit your top three choices of case studies, and will also have an opportunity to request collaborators to work with (or identify people not to work with). I will do my best to honor collaborator and topic requests as much as logistically possible.

Overview of the stages of the assignment

Stage	Grading	
Kaplan case-study section analysis (special version for Ch 4!)	<i>Individual</i>	15%
Article proposal with two back-up options	<i>Group</i>	15%
Personal presentation slides draft	<i>Individual</i>	15%
Expert presentation and revised slides	<i>Group</i>	30%
Novice presentation	<i>Group</i>	15%
Self and peer feedback (in two steps)	<i>Individual</i>	10%

Criteria for choosing a research article

- The paper should be a **journal article** that presents **quantitative** (numerical) results
 - Using a source other than a journal article requires advance permission
 - In general, avoid review articles or meta-analysis articles for this assignment
- The article should be **published** (online-only is fine if there is a journal citation)
- Papers from **2015 onward** are preferred where possible (not always possible!)
- The article must explain the study **methodology** and present and interpret **results**
- Your group must present a **data graphic**; this may come from the article, or you may create your own using data from the article

Overview of content to include in case-study “expert” presentation

(Group members will assign themselves to specific **roles** that cover the points listed here; more information about this will be provided later.)

- (1) [Role 1] What is (are) the **big-picture research question(s)** addressed by your research paper? How does this relate to the big-picture questions and/or the “language myth” addressed by the relevant chapter in the textbook?
- (2) [Role 2] For the experiment(s) that you discuss:
 - What specific **measurable research question(s)** were addressed? How do the measurable research question(s) relate to the big-picture research question?
 - What was the **methodology**? (Participants? Materials? Task?)
- (3) [Role 3] For the results that your presentation is focusing on:
 - Choose an informative data graphic from your article, or create one from data in your article., and show it on screen (you can take a screenshot from your source; just be sure to give a page-number citation on the slide with the graphic)
 - **Parse it:** what are the axes, category labels, etc.? why are they meaningful in the context of the study/the research questions?
 - **Interpret it (*this part is very important!*):** explain how the graphic *illustrates* the result, or lack of result, under discussion — tell the audience *what to look at* in order to *see the point*.
- (4) [Role 1 again] At the end of your presentation, include a **discussion** of how (or whether) the experiment results answer the **big-picture question** you have identified, and the ‘**language myth**’ addressed in the related textbook chapter.
 - Identify problems or concerns with the experiment or its interpretation, if any.
 - Also consider how your case study fits in with the **case studies** discussed in the chapter (if any) — does your paper provide further information, an update, a confirmation, a contradiction, etc.? Were any myths busted? Confirmed/supported? Or is the situation more nuanced?
- (5) [Role 4] Submit a potential midterm exam question based on your case-study and its relation to your language myth or big-picture research questions.

Preview: case-study “novice” presentation

We will decide as a class what the requirements and format for this presentation will be! The overall goal will be to make a general-audience-friendly presentation that addresses your “myth” based on your case-study results.