

Case-study presentation: Assignment overview

Over the course of the semester, each student in the course, as part of a small group, will present to the class a new “case study” (published research paper) corresponding to one of the chapters from our textbook. I will present a case study for chapter 2 as an example.

There are 10 slots for case-study presentations (see “[Schedule of topics](#)” web page for dates and topics). This means that each group will have 3–4 members. I will provide a form on Sakai 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.

Criteria for choosing a research paper

- It should ideally be a **journal article**; in some cases, book chapters and MA theses/ PhD dissertations may be considered
- It should be **published** (online-only is fine as long as there is a bibliographic citation)
- Papers from **2011 onward** are preferred where possible (not always possible!)
- It must explain the **methodology** and **results**
- It must include at least one **data graphic** (not data *table*)

Overview of content to include in case-study presentation

- (1) What is (are) the **big-picture research question(s)** addressed by your research paper? How do they relate to the big-picture questions and/or the “language myth” addressed by the relevant chapter in the textbook?
- (2) For each experiment that you discuss:
 - What specific **measurable research questions** were addressed? How do the measurable research questions relate to the big-picture research question?
 - What was the **methodology**? (Participants? Materials? Task?)
 - What were the **results**?
- (3) For at least one data graphic included in your research paper:
 - Show it on screen (you can take a screenshot from your source; just be sure to give a page-number citation on the slide where you show the graphic)
 - **Decode 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) Identify problems or concerns with the experiments or their interpretation, if any.

- (5) 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.
- 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?

Overview of assignment requirements

- You have the whole class period for your presentation. Plan for your group's presentation *content* to last about 30 minutes, ± 5 , so that there is time for discussion. Build discussion *into* your presentation: identify when the class should discuss a point, and indicate how much time should be budgeted for each such discussion point.
- Prepare slides for your audience that includes your main points and any data tables or data graphics you will be discussing.
- Submit your slides on Sakai (in "Assignments") by 1:00pm on the day of your presentation so that I can read them before class and make notes. (You may make minor edits and update your submission after 1pm, but please let me know if you do.)
- Submit documentation about the contributions of the group members (details to be provided later).