

Language Preservation Project Grading Criteria

Requirements for grade: Research-based essay that is at least 2,000 words (about 7 pages, double-spaced). Correct MLA, Chicago, or APA citations.

Content: Research: The essay provides a well-researched description of the language, it's sociohistorical context, and the efforts being made to preserve or revitalize the language. This information is clear, specific, and well-documented. The essay makes use of effective sources for this information, both scholarly and language-community-based.

Content: Analysis and Discussion: This essay does not just summarize information found in research, but integrates and interprets multiple sources (and potentially perspectives) This essay makes a well-supported argument about the purpose and challenges of preserving this specific language.

Organization: The essay features a clear and logical progression of ideas, and includes an effective introduction and specific thesis statement, clear and skillful transitions and "sign-posts" (topic statements), and thoughtful conclusion to the discussion. Section headings, if they are present, are clear and effective.

Language: The essay is written concisely.

Questions for Peer Review

Content: Research

Has the writer done enough research? What further information (or types of sources) might the writer seek out?

Does the writer provide enough information about the language and it's background?

How are the sources integrated into the discussion? Does the writer used quotations well?

Is more than one perspective visible in the research?

Content: Discussion and Analysis

What is the writer's argument? Please articulate here. (If you have trouble doing this, talk to the writer about what they intend to argue.)

What ideas from this course are visible in the discussion?

Where and how does the writer interpret ideas from research – rather than just reproduce information?

Does this essay answer the “so, what?” question? If not already visible, what is the significance or interest of this discussion?

Organization:

How is the essay organized? Why?