

Communication Sample Prompts

[Click here for the Communication rubric!](#)

Communication Dimensions		
Genre and Disciplinary Conventions	Strategies for Understanding and Evaluating Messages	Evaluation and Production of Arguments

Example 1

This assignment was an individual essay.

Gen Ed Area of Study	Critical Thinking	Dimension(s) Selected	
Spanish	No	Genre and Disciplinary Conventions	Strategies for Understanding and Evaluating Messages

Assignment Description:

Please pick one area to investigate from the options below. Once you pick an area to investigate you may not pick it again. There will be three assignments to complete in 'El pasaporte' this semester.

The options listed below are suggestions. You may attend/research other areas or events of interest with instructor approval. All passport activities are to be written in ENGLISH and are to be written below. For all topics you must write at least two paragraphs describing your experience. Write about what you did, what you liked, dislike, learned, etc.

1. New Mexican/Mexican heritage:

- Attend an exhibit, movie, or event at the Hispanic Cultural Center. (Share your experience with the class or write a paragraph of what you learned).
- Take a historical tour of Old Town Albuquerque (<http://www.toursofoldtown.com>). (Share your experience with the class or write a paragraph of what you learned).
- Take a road trip to El Morro or other historical sites in NM write a paragraph about what you learned.
- Attend a fiesta or annual New Mexican or Mexican event and share your experience with the class (example: attend the pilgrimage of Chimayó and share your experience with the class or research and write about it).
- Do a YouTube search on the history of NM or history of Mexico and write a paragraph. (Example: History of the Aztecs/Maya empires, the Mexican Revolution, Mexican American history, the Pueblo Revolt, etc.).
- Go to any museums related to Hispanics/ Mexican Americans in NM. (Share your experience with the class or write a paragraph of what you learned).

2. Go to a latino grocery store (Example: El Mezquite or Pro's Ranch Market). Write a paragraph comparing and contrasting these grocery stores with a typical American grocery store such as Albertson's or Smiths.
3. Eat at a Hispanic restaurant. NOTE: Mexican and New Mexican restaurants DO NOT count in this area.
 - Cuban, Spanish, Peruvian, Caribbean, El Salvadoran, latino, etc. b. Share your experience with the class. Compare and contrast the food with Mexican/New Mexican food.
4. Watch a Spanish movie and write a paragraph summarizing what the movie was about. Identify cultural differences and similarities that you noticed from your own culture.
5. Attend a musical event, concert, or the theatre and write about you experience (at least two paragraphs). Check the Alibi for upcoming events.
6. Research a personal interest and write a paragraph about it.
 - Music genre (rock/reggae/ pop en español, salsa, ranchera, corridos, etc.) or a particular musician.
 - Research famous people related to Latin America/Spain
 - Popular sports or favorite pass times in Spain/Latin America. d. Authors, poets, actors, etc.
7. Find a recipe for a Latin dish and cook it. Describe your experience and the end result.

Example 2

Prior to receiving the assignment, students had a guest lecture on Carnival, readings, and learned new vocabulary. This was a group writing assignment, where students were asked to use informal, blog-like language and incorporate new vocabulary relevant to Carnival.

Gen Ed Area of Study	Critical Thinking	Dimension(s) Selected	
Portuguese	Yes; Evidence Acquisition	Genre and Disciplinary Conventions	Strategies for Understanding and Evaluating Messages

Assignment Description:

PRESENTATIONAL WRITING ASSIGNMENT

This assignment should be submitted on Canvas in the PDF format. After you finish writing your text on word, click “save as” and choose the PDF format in order to submit it. This is the first draft of this assessment. After your instructor’s correction of the text, you will have one week to re-write it and increase your grade up to 10 points. Deadline for the first draft: Sunday, November 27th, 11.59PM.

The outcome of this writing assignment is a blog post about the Carnival you chose to research about. A good blog post should be informative, but also engaging (you want the reader to keep reading, right?). Language should be somewhat informal and accessible to most readers. Your text should address all the topics you have decided to research about, as described below. One paragraph per topic is recommended.

Group 1: [Student A] and [Student B]

Carnaval: Rio de Janeiro (RJ)

Work on:

1. Basic information about that carnival.
2. Specific information about that carnival:
 - a. History
 - b. Social criticism
 - c. Food and drinks
 - d. Music
 - e. Costumes

Group 2: [Student C], [Student D], and [Student E]

Carnaval: Olinda (PE)

Work on:

1. Basic information about that carnival.
2. Specific information about that carnival:
 - a. History
 - b. Art
 - c. Locally important cultural aspects
 - d. Music
 - e. Religion

Outline requirements:

Think of a fun and short headline for your post: the readers should be interested in reading the text based on it!

Write an introductory paragraph to your blog posts, that briefly summarizes its content. Also, make sure to include basic information about that Carnival.

Address all the topics you chose about your Carnival. If you want, sub-topics are welcome to make the text easily understandable to the audience.

Conclude your text with a paragraph, in which you give your opinion to the Carnival mentioned. Would you like to attend it? Who would you recommend attending this Carnival?

VOCABULARY: Carnival-related (blocos, escolas de samba, ritmos musicais, etc.)

GRAMMAR: Present tense, past tense, conditional.

TOPIC: You have researched about Carnival in specific cities of Brazil. Now, write a blog post describing what you have learned. Keep in mind that your text will be posted online.

Resources on how to write a blog post:

<https://www.wordstream.com/blog/ws/2015/02/09/how-to-write-a-blog-post>

<https://www.wix.com/blog/2019/11/how-to-write-a-blog-post-with-examples/>

<https://www.masterclass.com/articles/how-to-write-a-blog-post>

Example 3

This was an individual presentation assignment.

Gen Ed Area of Study	Critical Thinking	Dimension(s) Selected	
Honors	Yes; Evidence Acquisition, Evidence Evaluation	Genre and Disciplinary Conventions	Strategies for Understanding and Evaluating Messages

Assignment Description

Week in Weird Presentation Prompt & Rubric

Purpose

This assignment is designed to encourage students explore all things romance outside of required course readings and to begin to understand our own lives as texts.

All students will sign up for a specific week to post their presentation in the given discussion board area. Students will post their assignment in the given discussion board area by the Sunday of the week you signed up for. For example, if you signed up for Week 5, you will post your Week in Weird in the given discussion board area by Sunday at 11:59PM of that week.

Instructions Part I: Choose Topic

Choose a specific text or topic that is relevant to our course themes and compose a presentation on it that:

- Explains what it is,
- Its relevance to the course materials, &
- How the student analyzes or interprets it.

This assignment is VERY OPEN. Students can do projects on relevant popular culture movements, social norms, tropes, or other relevant topics. So as long as a student can make a case for the topic's relevance to the course, then they can present on it.

For example, students can do projects on movies, books, and TV shows we won't cover in class, relevant popular culture movements, or ghost hunting practices. Remember that how students choose to define "paranormal investigation" or "occult detective" is likewise open to interpretation. So as long as a student can make a case for the topic's relevance to the course, then they can present on it.

The texts can cover a range from print materials to lived experiences. The presenter's job is to contextualize the topic in the context of the course and analyze its importance to our conversation.

Part II: Create Presentation

Once you've chosen your topic, create a visual presentation to present your ideas. This presentation could be a PowerPoint with audio recording, a short video, a zine, and infographic, or whatever you would like to try. Again, this is very open. Be sure to include AT LEAST THREE CREDIBLE SOURCES you used in a final resource page or section.

To submit your assignment, please post it in the given discussion board area AND in the given Week in Weird submission area.

If your projects contain audio, please make sure to include subtitles.

Part III: Respond to Peer Presentations

Throughout the semester, respond to AT LEAST five peer Week in Weird posts. Responses should go beyond, "great job!" (although that is a very nice thing to say). Ask questions, consider what their presentation taught you, and how you might add to the conversation. See sample under given DB area.

This portion will be graded separately as a Discussion Board grade (5 points/response) worth 25 points.

Assignment Rubric

Criteria	Excellent	Meets Expectations	Emerging	Incomplete
Overall Organization & Citations <i>10pts</i>	Project is organized and easy to follow with citations at the end and subtitles if doing a video. <i>10pts</i>	Project is mostly organized and easy to follow with citations at the end and subtitles if doing a video. <i>8pts</i>	Project is lacking in organization and is not easy to follow with citations at the end, subtitles lacking in video. <i>6pts</i>	Incomplete or Missing <i>0pts</i>
Topic Summary <i>15pts</i>	project includes thorough summary and historical, social, and literary context of primary sources <i>15pts</i>	project mostly includes thorough summary and historical, social, and literary context of primary sources <i>10pts</i>	project is missing thorough summary and historical, social, and literary context of primary sources <i>5pts</i>	Incomplete or Missing <i>0pts</i>
Analysis <i>15pts</i>	Complex, specific, & original interpretation of text, supported by direct evidence from text, 70% of project or more <i>15pts</i>	Developing an original interpretation of text, supported by direct evidence from text, but, while in the right pace and is at least 70% of project, isn't clearly differentiated from summary	Less than 70% of project, contributing little or no original interpretation of text <i>5pts</i>	Incomplete or Missing <i>0pts</i>
Grammar & Style <i>10pts</i>	Effective style. Complete sentences, correct punctuation and mechanics, use of third person <i>10pts</i>	<i>10pts</i> A few minor grammatical issues. Mostly effective style. <i>8pts</i>	2-1 points Many grammatical issues. Many stylistic issues. <i>6pts</i>	Incomplete or Missing <i>0pts</i>
Total:				/50

Example 4

This was an individual essay assignment.

Gen Ed Area of Study	Critical Thinking	Dimension(s) Selected	
UHON	Yes; Problem Setting, Reasoning & Conclusion	Strategies for Understanding and Evaluating Messages	Evaluation and Production of Arguments

Assignment Description:

Honors 1120-014 Legacy of Struggle – Roots of War

REACTION/REVIEW PAPER: GUIDELINES

Reaction/review papers are required of all students (The scores will be counted towards the point total for the seminar). These should be **no more than one page** (Double-spaced - 12 point font, 1" margins - use parentheses to indicate the page number or line number of a quotation, anecdote or section you refer to). The reports should focus on the assigned readings/films. These reports should **not** be synopses or content summaries. They should, rather, focus on particular sections, subsections, scenes, themes, or characters and address **one or more (not all)** of the following questions:

1. What is the purpose of this work?
2. What techniques or methods does the author or artist use to make his or her points?
3. How effective is the work?
4. What was your reaction to the particular points the author addressed?
5. How does the author or artist deal with a particular issue or employ specific stylistic devise?
6. What can the reader learn about effective writing from this work.

The report can be personal and address issues from your point of view. Thus you can present your reactions using the first person and referring, perhaps, to your experiences. The report could, however, deal with the issues and ideas from a more detached "objective" viewpoint. Such an approach would be most effectively rendered in third person.

Tip: In so short a paper, you are more likely to be successful if you limit your focus to a particular point or very few points and address that point(s) with great specificity.

Evaluation will focus on clarity in addressing the ideas you endeavor to convey and explore in the report.

Dimensions of Evaluation - (0 = unacceptably flawed, 1 = major and minor flaws limit success, 2 = one major or numerous minor flaws, 3 = perfection spoiled by minor flaws, 4 = superb

1. Presentation (titling and cosmetics) – 15%
2. Structure, sentence/paragraph level/continuity – 40%
3. Insight – 25%

4. Support (logic, documentary references) – 20%

Example 5

This was a group essay assignment.

Gen Ed Area of Study	Critical Thinking	Dimension(s) Selected	
Japanese	Yes; Evidence Acquisition, Reasoning & Conclusion	Genre and Disciplinary Conventions	Evaluation and Production of Arguments

Assignment Description:

JAPN 1135-002 (Spring 2023)

Research Japanese Society

While Japanese traditional/pop cultures achieved huge popularity and have contributed to forge a positive image about Japan. However, those enthusiasts of Japanese culture generally paid much smaller attention to Japanese social issue and politics, which sometimes resulting in constructing an image of Japanese society through the Orientalist lenses, or emotionally unprepared to see some aspects of such society.

For this assignment, you will work as a pair (or three) with your classmate. Conduct brief research about Japanese social/political issues by reading **at least 2 but no more than 5 sources** of English news sources (Japan Times, Asahi Shinbun, Nippon.com, etc.) or academic researches when necessary. Write an essay for your friends who love Japanese anime but know not interested in Japanese social/political issues at all. Essay should be **at least 600 words but no more than 1000 words**. Because the purpose of your essay is to bring your friend a better understanding of the other society through your research, focus more on understanding the topic and explaining in a concise but engaging manner than coming up with solutions. Make some connections between the topic and aspects of Japanese culture or global issues with which your friend may be already familiar. For example, you may mention popularity of sushi in US when you discuss about the sustainability of fishery in Japan. Or, you may refer to representation of gender dynamics in some Japanese anime shows in order to make your friend engaged with the issues of gender equality/equity.

Your journal will be **Due April 28, Friday** on Discussion Board. Leave at least 2 feedbacks on your classmates' posts **By May 5, Friday**.

The possible topics are, but not limited to:

1. LGBTQ Marriage in Japan
2. Marriage and Surname Change
Japan Times, "Japan's Top Court Says Forcing Couples to Share Surname is Constitutional"
3. Lost Generation

4. Sushi and Sustainability
search: "sustainable fishing in Japan"
5. Low Wage in Anime Industry
6. "ブラック校則"("black" school rules)
7. Olympic and Development (Meiji Jingu)
Asahi Shinbun, "Editorial: Redevelopment of Meiji Jingu Gaien Calls for a Serious Rethink"
8. Hate Speech in Japan
Japan Times "Hate Speech," NYT Hiroyuki
9. Low Self-Sufficiency in Food
Japan Today, "Japan's Food Self-Sufficiency Alarmingly Low: 72 mil Could Go Hungry, Magazine Says"
10. Immigrant Workers and Human Rights violation
search: "immigrant labor in Japan"
Washington Post, "Japan Wakes Up to Exploitation of Foreign Workers as Immigration Debate Rages"
11. Stagnant Wage Increase in the Last 30 years