

Discipline-Specific Writing Guide: ASL/Interpreting

Emphasized Writing Skills and Typical Assignments

Written assignments in ASL/Interpreting courses often emphasize **reflection** and **critical thinking**. Students in the Senior Seminar write a literature review and research report requiring synthesis and analysis. Other assignments include:

- case study reviews
- classroom analyses
- free-writes
- journals
- observation papers
- reflections
- translations and transliterations

Some Key Questions to Guide Writing

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Patterns of Organization and Use of Headings

Criteria for organizing individual assignments vary. Informal writing assignments, such as journals, may be organized in any logical fashion. Observation papers may be organized chronologically or by topic. Many papers follow the **introduction, body, conclusion** format and may not necessarily contain headings. The Senior Seminar research paper, however, is organized according to APA style with **introduction, literature review, methodology, results, discussion, and conclusion sections** with appropriate headings.

Preferred Style or Tone

Most of the writing assignments are less formal and more personal, but analyses and research papers are formal.

Favored Research Methodologies

Most of the research in this field involves **qualitative or quantitative studies**, particularly **observations** and **interviews**. Students will also need to be familiar with **library research** techniques.

Authoritative Sources/Evidence

Books, articles, and interviews are considered authoritative sources within the ASL/Interpreting department. Depending upon the assignment, academically acceptable websites may be appropriate.

Documentation Style

APA (American Psychological Association)

Samples of ASL journals are available for review in the Writing Center.