

# learning environment + situational factors to consider

## Specific Context of the Teaching/Learning Situation

How many students are in the class? Is the course primary, secondary, undergraduate, or graduate level? How long and frequent are the class meetings? How will the course be delivered: live, online, blended, flipped or in a classroom or lab? What physical elements of the learning environment will affect the class? What technology, networking and access issues will affect the class?

- 22 students
- Primary Level - Kindergarten
- Writing lessons: 30 min daily
- Live & Blended Classroom
- Computer Lab and School Library Access Available
- Physical Elements of Learning Environment:
  - Open/flexible seating floor plan
  - Classroom library
  - Student pencils, draft papers and journals.
  - Chromebooks, Ipads and MacBook Airs
- Possible Technology Issues:
  - Internet connections
  - Google access for students

## General Context of the Learning Situation

What learning expectations are placed on this course or curriculum by: the school, district, university, college and/or department? the profession? Society?

- School Curriculum: MAISA Writing - Informational Writing: Personal Expertise Unit
- MAISA Pre- and Post-Assessments.
- Common Core State Standards:
- Technology expectations:
- Expectations of students: Students will be able to research using KidRex and write about a topic. They will organize their thinking and then present the information using technology. They will use Google tools to type and insert images for final draft of work. Students will share work using Seesaw.

## Nature of the Subject

Is this subject primarily theoretical, practical, or a combination? Is the subject primarily convergent or divergent? Are there important changes or controversies occurring within the field?

- This subject is practical. Students will be research and writing information. It will also be theoretical because it will be difficult. We will need to talk about having a growth mindset and persevering in their work.
- This subject is convergent because they will be taking all the different skills and assessments and using them to create a final product, an electronic book.
- One controversy that may occur is the hesitance to type a story as teachers would rather students write stories with pencil and paper and practice handwriting.
  - Students will be using pencil and paper for planning and drafts. Only the final copy will be typed with images added.

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## Characteristics of the Learners

What is the life situation of the learners (e.g., socio-economic, cultural, personal, family, professional goals)? What prior knowledge, experiences, and initial feelings do students usually have about this subject? What are their learning goals and expectations?

- Life situations:
  - Low income
  - 92% Free & Reduced lunch
  - Spanish speaking
  - 61% English Language Learners
  - 76% Hispanic
  - 30% of parents did not graduate high-school
- Prior knowledge
  - Student will be learning for the first time about how to write informational text. They may have limited experiences with Google slides but are familiar with a keyboard and mouse. Students will be learning about different topics, some they may be familiar with and some that may be new to them.
- Learning Goals and Expectations:
  - Students will learn how to use Google slides to produce a book.
  - Students will be communicating with a class of a different socio-economic background, in a different state, with different experiences.
  - Students will be able to read their created book and share information collected about topic.
  - Technology will promote more detailed writing.

## Characteristics of the Teacher

What beliefs and values does the teacher have about teaching and learning? What is his/her attitude toward: the subject? students? What level of knowledge or familiarity does s/he have with this subject? What are his/her strengths in teaching?

- I believe all students can and are excited about learning. It is my job to expose them to hands-on, problem solving and engaging material that promotes learning and prepares students for their futures.
- It is my role as the teacher to encourage independent learning, self-reflection and critical thinking. This is a humanistic learning theory. I want my students to be well rounded and self motivated to learn more.
- I also follow a social-constructivist learning theory.
- Writing can be difficult but I think it is every important to be able to communicate through writing. I feel very comfortable with my training in teaching writing and the writing skills but I could always learn and improve. I feel with my experience with technology I can help to promote engagement and communication beyond the classroom to share student learning and deepen understanding.
- Strengths: Behavior management, Differentiation, Setting up classroom environment for learning and exploring, Teaching life skills & strategies such as growth mindset, kindness & mindfulness.