

Previous Paper Assignment

Department of Higher Education, The Penn State University

HIED 596: Individual Studies

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I have written many types of papers including personal reflections and opinions, research such as data prediction and analysis, policy memos, and research papers analyzing larger issues. When given the choice of topics, I typically chose to write about topics surrounding international students. When given the choice of what institution to analyze I would generally pick my alma mater, Meredith College, or its neighboring university, North Carolina State University. I did not pick a large variation in topics based on the advice I got from Dr. Brooke Shurer who I interviewed in HIED 808. She said that the field of international higher education is incredibly competitive, so I should try to approach as many projects and papers with a goal-oriented focus throughout my master's program. This way, I will be more familiar with the field I hope to go into.

There was a variation in the length of double-spaced papers from about one page to nineteen pages, not including the cover page or reference pages. Generally, the feedback given to me included positive comments on the structure and content of my papers. There were a few papers that I needed to improve my APA citations or expound on concepts, but it seems that the objectives of my papers were clearly explained. When reviewing the papers I have produced in this program, I found that I have written about 112 papers comprised of 417 double-spaced pages over ten classes not including discussion posts or other projects. I believe that I have grown and evolved as a writer throughout this program through actively incorporating my instructors' feedback.

In terms of my strengths, I am now confident in using APA formatting. I am also good at identifying and synthesizing relevant resources to support my argument. I need to improve my planning process and time management. Often I spend too much time planning a paper and

overthinking how to expand on my ideas. I hope to strengthen this process throughout this capstone course.