

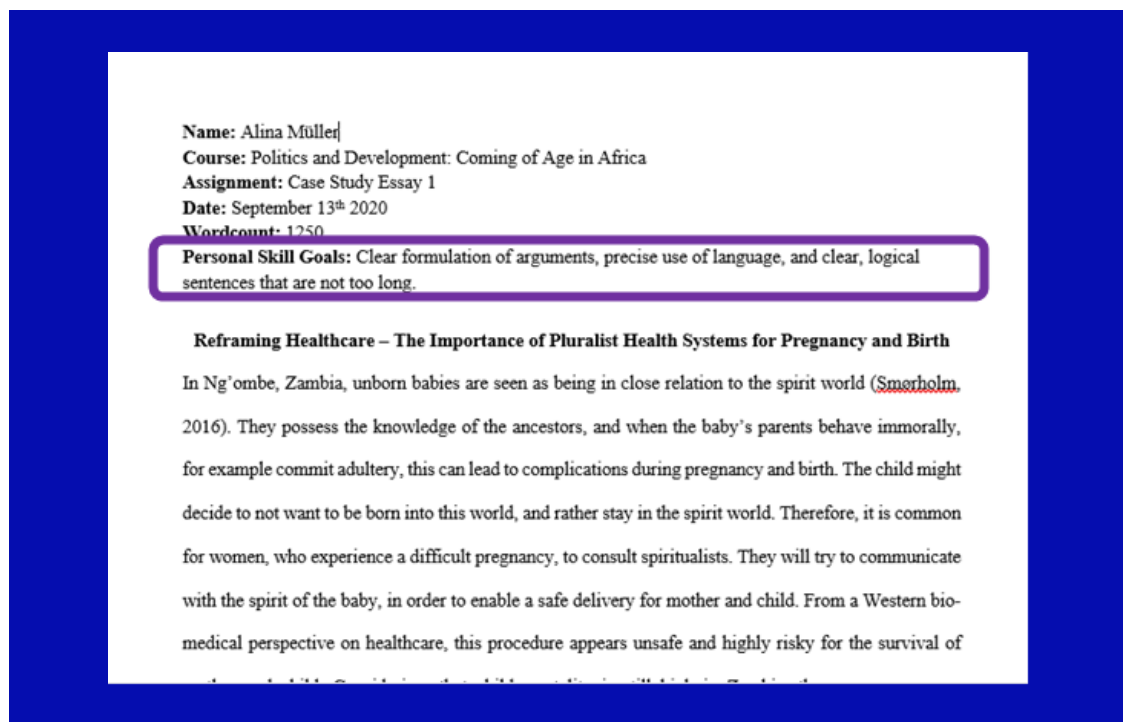
Example: Pursue Your Goals in Assignments

Course: Anthropology of Development in Africa

Level: Undergraduate

Set-Up

I asked students to write at least one personal goal they want to pursue through preparing their assignment. If it was something I could give them feedback on, I asked them to write it at the top of their essay.



The screenshot shows a document with the following text:

Name: Alina Müller
Course: Politics and Development: Coming of Age in Africa
Assignment: Case Study Essay 1
Date: September 13th 2020
Wordcount: 1250

Personal Skill Goals: Clear formulation of arguments, precise use of language, and clear, logical sentences that are not too long.

Reframing Healthcare – The Importance of Pluralist Health Systems for Pregnancy and Birth

In Ng’ombe, Zambia, unborn babies are seen as being in close relation to the spirit world (Smorholm, 2016). They possess the knowledge of the ancestors, and when the baby’s parents behave immorally, for example commit adultery, this can lead to complications during pregnancy and birth. The child might decide to not want to be born into this world, and rather stay in the spirit world. Therefore, it is common for women, who experience a difficult pregnancy, to consult spiritualists. They will try to communicate with the spirit of the baby, in order to enable a safe delivery for mother and child. From a Western biomedical perspective on healthcare, this procedure appears unsafe and highly risky for the survival of

Results

Below are examples of students’ goals on this assignment:

“Clear formulation of arguments, precise use of language, and clear, logical sentences that are not too long.”

“My personal goal for this essay is to actually enjoy doing the assignment, to not worry about the grade too much, to acknowledge that there is no definite right or wrong when it comes to essay-writing, and that therefore I don’t have to contemplate over every little detail and formulation, which only leads to frustration and takes away the excitement and real learning.”

“The topic is complicated, as the study is about teenage pregnancy, but actually talks more about communication with locals. Therefore, I want to try to structure it in a way that makes sense and is coherent.”

“At the end of this semester I am really exhausted and don’t feel motivated. To make it more interesting, my goal was to come up with a more creative format than the normal essay structure with intro, thesis statement and conclusion. I came up with a panel format, where there are different speakers who give talks on the same topic but from different perspectives. I hope this is fine since the assignment instructions call for creativity.”