

## The Final Project – English 574

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It's not too early to start thinking about things you want to focus on in your final project for the course. One of the purposes of the readings (all of them – *Image Grammar*, *Grammar Alive*, *Eat, Shoots & Leaves*, and copied articles, etc) is to engage you in the field of teaching grammar/teaching writing.

I hope that, from these, and our course discussions, that you are beginning to gain confidence about your role as a teacher of grammar & writing. I also hope that you are beginning to ask questions and make plans.

*The overall purpose of the final project is to create polished, academically-based work that shows your knowledge. The work should be high-caliber and professional. Don't think of it as a student project; if you are an undergrad, this should become an important part of your portfolio. If you are a current teacher, this should be a real document that will help in your classroom, school, or career. Remember this as you begin to develop ideas.*

The final project will have three options:

1. **Pedagogical Option** – in this option, you will be asked to develop a writing project or a writing program that fits within 'best practices' and meets one or more goals of the *Grammar Alive's* "Goals for Teaching Grammar. This option would include creating a detailed lesson guide, a 'meta-discussion' in which you tell how the project is theoretically-sound, and support-materials that show other teachers how to implement your project.

Among others, appropriate projects could include:

- Ones that teach students how to edit their own work
- Any writing project that emphasizes style/grammar/or grammatical construction in the process
- A writing project that teaches students to appreciate linguistic variance and explore the grammars around them
- A program that would integrate grammar into other aspect of teaching or subjects

2. **Academic Option** – in this option, you will write an article, targeted for *the Language Arts Journal of Michigan* (I will give examples), written for an audience of teachers.

This article can, among others:

- Describe appropriate teaching methods of teaching some aspect of grammar, including your own conclusions and idea
- Discuss some controversial aspect of grammar or work to define the best ways to bring grammar into a classroom.
- Try to answer an unanswered question you want to find out the answer to.

3. **Professional Option** – there are a lot of current teachers in this class. In this option, you will create a program or 'real' document that needs to be developed in order to better your school, department, school district, or other entity. This option would also include a 'meta' writing that describes how the project is theoretically-sound.

I see possibilities such as:

- A grammar curriculum for a grade level/school that follows 'best practices'
- A proposal for a course or sequence of courses that emphasize writing, with some elements of grammar
- A guide for other teachers that assists them in integrating grammar into their classrooms
- A guide for parents to assist them in teaching grammar and writing to their children