

## UC PLA (Part 3 of 3) Transcript

### Slide 1

OK, before we go any further and I start talking with you about the introduction to your essay; please pull out your Sample Essay, if you haven't already done so, so that you can be following along. I want you take a close look here on the first page. You'll see that the Introduction section heading is actually typed in all caps before you start typing your Introduction. To type these section headings throughout your essay just the way they are in your Sample Essay is an important part of the formatting for this writing assignment. Your introduction is a very important part of the essay, and in this format it is kind of short and sweet.

### Slide 2

It is about 3-5 sentences, and it's done in the narrative voice. It introduces your subject and identifies your three key concepts. Take a moment now and look at the Sample Essay introductory paragraph and see if you can find the college-level subject that this writer is talking about, and her three key concepts.

### Slide 3

Here's a sample introduction. Take a moment now and read this to yourself. See if it fits the parameters that you found in your Essay Guidelines and the Essay Sample. Remember, you want to give rich context here, but in a brief and concise way. When did your experience happen, how did it happen, who was involved in it, and what are your three key concepts? These are critical elements to an effective KOLB Introduction.

### Slide 4

Let's move on to Concrete Experience. This is where the action is, and really this is what qualifies you to write an Experiential Learning Essay. So, remember, that while you're writing this essay, you're going to have to go back and take time to reduce and edit, and think about the very specific pieces of your experience that you want to use to convey your in-depth learning.

### Slide 5

Here's where you're going to start talking about what you did. How did you do it, where did you do it, and with whom did you do it? This section is about 2- 2 ½ pages, and you're using your three concepts to really frame your writing here. The way that you introduce your concepts in your introductory paragraph is the way that you should continue to write about them throughout your essay. So, in this Concrete Experience portion, start with your first paragraph, and give the experience related to that for about 2-3 paragraphs. Move to your second concept, and give your experience related to that for about 2-3 paragraphs, and do that for your third concept, as well. It's very important that you give a balanced presentation of each of your concepts in every section of the essay.

### Slide 6

Here's a sample from the same student essay around the concept of customer care. Take a moment now to see if you can find the action words that describe her experience.

### Slide 7

Before we move on to Section II, I want you to take a look at your Sample Essay, and check out the way that there is no transition or segway between Section I to Section II; things that you would find in a typical writing assignment. No, in the KOLB formatted essay, each section is giving its own unique perspective.

And now you've moved on to Reflective Observation. All of the experience that you get to write about is really essentially contained in Section I. That should give your reader the context for every other section of your essay. So, Section II is not a continuation of your story. Instead it is a chance for you to take the learning that you talked about in Section I, framed through your three key concepts, and now reviews it in Section II, except in a reflective lens.

#### Slide 8

So, now describe and analyze the effects of what you did, filtered through your three key concepts, and considering what you've already expressed in Section I through your Concrete Experience. What observations can you made about each concept? How would you compare this situation to similar situation? Have you noticed any patterns or recognized any relationships as you've thought about your learning? Remember, this is not a continuation of your experience. This section continues in a narrative voice, and needs to be at least two pages, and no more than 2 ½ pages.

#### Slide 9

Do you see any reflective language in this sample paragraph for Section II? I do. How about, "I recognized...", or "One effective strategy we used..." How about, "We came to realize..." All of those things indicate that this writer is using a reflective stance.

#### Slide 10

Let's move on to Section III, Abstract Conceptualization. That's kind of a mouthful, isn't it? This is really actually a very interesting and fun piece of your essay to write even if you're not used to dealing in theories and models, because now you get to take your expert learning that you talked about in Section I, your experience, and show how different models, and theories, and principles, and ideas relate to that in a formal and academic way.

#### Slide 11

In Section III, you'll find that this is the only section where you're supporting your learning with sources from outside. It's important that you use APA formatting to denote this kind of source support. You'll be using scholarly, or what we call peer-reviewed sources, from your APU Library, or other text or sources that you may have. In this section, you're going to be asking yourself, "What in-depth knowledge did I gain about this particular concept, and how can I demonstrate that in a way that shows that I have an expertise in this area that relates to what other people have been writing about?" So, what principles or theories, models or explanations can you come up with in this section to really give a cohesive presentation of your experiential learning? When you are writing this section of your essay, I really suggest that you stop, pull out the Sample Essay again, read through that section, and get a real clear sense of the language there. You've now put on your professor's hat. You're the expert, and so you need to use that objective, third-person voice. If you're going to err in section length, in this format, what you need to do is err in Section III, in terms of having too much rather than too little, because we ask our faculty evaluators when they are looking at your essays to go to here to Section III first, because this is where they can determine whether you know what you're talking about. So, take extra care with Section III.

#### Slide 12

Be sure to cover the following components for each of your three key concepts. Give a definition or explanation. Not from Webster's Dictionary, but from an academic or formal source. Then, expand on your theoretical idea. How does this tie to your larger subject? How does it relate to your experiential learning that you talked about in Section I? It's OK to give examples of very limited references to your

personal experience so that you can make the tie between your expert learning and a theory you are trying to explain. But make sure to limit these references to I, and instead stick with the formal, third-person, objective voice in this section.

#### Slide 13

Let's talk about researching your subject. Searching online databases for professional journal articles using the APU Library system is one of the most effective ways for you to research your topic for this essay. Make sure that you review college textbooks on your topic, review books or websites by experts in the field, and finally, consult with your Library staff. I wish somebody had told me that before I'd gone through an Undergraduate accelerated degree, and then on into my Masters. It wasn't until I got into Graduate work, and started really using the library resources that I had, calling up a librarian, asking her to show me where a database or certain information was, that I started using my research time effectively.

#### Slide 14

You might be asking, what is scholarly or academic reference? Take a moment now to view this YouTube video to help out with this learning.

#### Slide 15

The phrase "in-text citations" is merely a fancy way to say this is how you're going to talk about your resources within the body of the text of your Section III abstract. You'll be using APA-style formatting throughout in this section. There are some different ways to incorporate author's names in a sentence, and so you'll want to consult your Hacker writing guide for examples. There are varying signal phrases that you use. Hacker has a whole list of signal phrases, and you'll see some of those in your sample essay. Quotations and paraphrasing are two different ways for you to demonstrate your learning. In a Kolb format essay it's probably better for you to do mostly paraphrasing of your information because it's a better demonstration of your learning. Either way, any time you are using language that is not specifically your own, you need to cite your source accurately. And, finally, the punctuation location for in-text citations can look very odd at first. Go ahead and look at your samples in your Hacker writing guide and follow those closely.

#### Slide 16

In this sample paragraph, for Abstract Conceptualization, this student, again, is talking about her customer care concept. Let's see how she does it. "Small business owners, even more than their larger counterparts, need to understand who their customers are and give them excellent service." You can see in this first sentence, she is giving you her own expert learning, so there is no citation after that sentence. Now she goes on and she gives a definition of what a customer is, but this time, notice that she has an in-text quotation. "A customer is anyone who pays money to acquire an organization's products or services," and then she gives Griffin 2011. And then she further goes on to show that she knows what she's talking about by amplifying that definition for the context of the business that she was learning in. "In an employment agency, customers are both clients and prospective employees who need placement."

#### Slide 17

If we move on to the References page, we can see that it's alphabetized, it's in hanging indent form, and its double-spaced. Your references should be 5 years old or newer.

#### Slide 18

Well, here we are at Section IV, Active Experimentation, and it's my suggestion, at this point, if you've not yet taken a break from writing, that you go, put your jogging clothes on, go for a 10-mile run, and come

back. I don't want you to treat this last section of your essay as just an add-on, or a summary, which it is not. It's its own unique section, and is demanding for you to make application and transfer of learning about all three key concepts for a full two pages. Are you ready?

#### Slide 19

Section IV is the way that you show that you have transferred your learning into a different context; which is really what shows that you've learned something in the first place. So, for example, if the original context of your essay was "Running a Business" and one of your concepts was Financial Management, in this section, you might want to take that to your personal home setting, and say, "This is how I use it in my home budget." You want to describe how you've applied your expertise, but provide specific examples. This is a great section, because even if you haven't experienced a transfer of learning, you can start thinking about, "How would I use this learning?" If you use a hypothetical example like that, please also provide an example that you've thought about. This section is back to narrative voice, and needs to be a full 2-2 ½ pages. You don't have to have a summary paragraph at the end of this essay, but if you'd like to tie it up neatly with 3-5 sentences, please feel free to do that.

#### Slide 20

Here's a great example of Active Experimentation. It's from the same student sample we were using earlier, but this time she's talking about Accurate Assessment. Remember, her essay took place in an employment agency. But, now, in this Active Experimentation section, she's talking about how she uses that concept, assessment, when she helps out in her 3<sup>rd</sup>-Grader's classroom. She then gives an example of what that looks like. These are the kinds of things that you should be doing in your Section IV, as well. Once you've completed talking about all three concepts in Section IV of your essay, simply stop there and then type references on the next page, and you'll have the final page of your essay. Hallelujah! You've done it!

#### Slide 21

So, now that you've had a chance to actually delve into the essay, and look at the each of the components, we want to bring it all together. We've talked about the Introduction, Concrete Experience, Reflective Observation, Abstract Conceptualization, and Active Experimentation, and we've also talked about how the three key concepts that you'll choose that are directly related to your college-level topic will be woven throughout each of these sections. So, what we'd like for you to do now is to spend some time actually brainstorming your topic. What is the college-level topic that you are thinking about writing on? What department would your essay be focus toward? What are those three concepts that you would weave throughout? But, before you do that, we're going to ask you to play along as we take a little quiz.

#### Slide 22

In this quiz, I'm going to give you examples of Abstract Concepts. For instance, I'd say Subject: Teaching 4<sup>th</sup>-Graders. Now what department would that fall under? Hopefully you said Education. If I were to ask you, what concepts might be related to this particular topic for an essay, Teaching 4<sup>th</sup>-Graders, what might you say? Hopefully, you're thinking of things like Curriculum Development, Classroom Environment, Behavior Modification. There are any number of concepts that fit with this topic. The idea is that we just want to give you samples. Let's do some more.

#### Slide 23

If the subject is "Owning a Business", you've probably guessed that the Department is Business. Some key concepts that you might select would be Business Plan, Marketing, Financial Management, Employee Development, and on and on and on.

#### Slide 24

Another subject might be “Human Resource Administration”. This department would also be Business since Azusa Pacific University doesn’t have a separate HR department, and some concepts would be things like Strategic & Operational Planning, Compliance, Management.

#### Slide 25

How about the subject, “Living with an Alcoholic”? Hopefully you understand that the department that would be evaluating this type of essay is Psychology. And some key concepts here would be Codependency, Self-esteem, Support Network. Now this is one of those essays that I want to take a moment to point out some pointers on. For example, if you’re writing about living with an alcoholic, it’s really important that you stay focused on your personal experience. Whenever you’re talking about an experience of living with or coping with somebody else’s issue, it’s hard not to tell their story. So, we wouldn’t want you to talk about how you helped them establish self-esteem. We’d want to hear more about how you, personally, established self-esteem, and how you’re personal Support Network became important through the process.

#### Slide 26

Let’s do one more. If the subject was “Coping with Loss”, again, the department would be Psychology. And in this instance, some possible concepts would be things like Denial, Anger, Acceptance. Now you might recognize that these are three of the five stages of grief that are commonly referred to in Death and Dying literature. Here, we’d encourage you to choose the three concepts that are most relevant for your personal experience. You may say, “I never dealt with Anger, but I did deal with Depression,” and so you may choose to include Depression instead of Anger. It doesn’t matter so long as the concepts that you’re choosing for your essay correlate directly to your personal adult experience.

#### Slide 27

Now, why don’t you try it. What is a college-level subject that is relevant to your experience and would be appropriate for an Experiential Learning Essay? Next, what department teaches in that subject area? Lastly, what are the key concepts that would be taught in such a course.

#### Slide 28

Now, we include this last slide here as a student’s perspective, because several years ago when Dr. Durfield was teaching this in a classroom setting, Candida came up to him afterward and said, “I’m a visual learner. Let me show you what I came up with as you were speaking. In Section I, I’m going to take myself and I’m going to take three key concepts, and tell you exactly what happened in terms of personal experience. In Section II, I’m going to take myself out of that experience, and look back on it: reflections, observations. Basically, having a chance to reflect and look back on the concrete experience related to my Abstract Concepts that I already shared in Section I. In Section III, I am no longer in the picture. Instead, I’m focusing on those three key concepts, and giving you scholarly information, very methodically, that describes what those concepts are all about. And the finally, in Section IV, I am going to each of those concepts and I’m going to put them in a different context; applying my learning to a different setting.” Well, I was so impressed with this student’s visual learning, and her ability to capture this on paper that I decided to include it for all of you who are visual learners as well.

#### Slide 29

So, as I mentioned earlier, now’s a chance for you to bring it all together. We’ve talked about each of these sections, and we want you to figure out what’s your college-level topic? What department is your

**essay focused toward, and what are your three key concepts? So, take a moment to do that, and when you're ready come back and we'll finish this explanation by describing the deadlines, and some other important information that you need to know as we wrap up this assignment.**

**Slide 30**

**Remember that you are writing your Experiential Learning Essays in this course as part of your grade. However, if you would like additional units for your Experiential Learning Essay, you need to submit it to your Prior Learning Assessment Faculty member for additional evaluation. Make any needed revision to your essay, send your essay via email as Microsoft Word attachment, along with a completed Petition for Academic Credit form, to your PLA Faculty for credit evaluation. This processing can take 4-6 weeks, so make sure that you don't wait until the end of your program to submit your essays.**

**Slide 31**

**We'd like to say, again, what a privilege it is to partner with you in your degree completion journey. We hope that your tank never gets empty, and if you need encouragement along the way, we are here to help. God Bless.**