

Ideas from Sarah Baldy-Kühnapfel for Written Expression Intermediate

Re tips: Not sure I have any but I can briefly
tell you what I do and
how I assess the course:

5 in-class quizzes (no help from resources) on
present perfect/simple
past, present continuous/simple present,
simple past/past continuous,
capitals and commas. Each of the quizzes is
worth 1%, so 5% in total of
the final grade.

Text analysis plus 400-word descriptive text,
written in class without
the Internet or dictionaries, worth 30% of

final grade

Argumentative essay, around 1000 words, written at home, focusing on coherence and cohesion (weak points of AI), worth 20% of final grade

Letter to the editor, no longer than 500 words, written at home, focusing on conciseness (eliminating wordiness), worth 20% of final grade

Editing task 1: Correcting by hand a text written by a human (good practice for the budding teachers in the group), done at home, worth 15% of final grade

Editing task 2: Assessing the quality of a

ChatGPT text and improving as necessary. For this task, it is not sufficient to simply correct the text - they have to explain their corrections in detail. This task is done at home and worth 10% of final grade.

I tell them at the beginning of the course that I will run the argumentative essays and letters to the editors through Turnitin and the AI function of Turnitin. Those two tasks constitute only 40% of the overall grade.

In all of the tasks, I incorporate actual texts (e.g. BBC travel articles, newspaper articles from the Irish Times, New York Times, Guardian etc.). This enables me to bring in a

bit of country and cultural information as well – I have discovered, for instance, that very few of the students have any knowledge of the UK outside of London. Consequently, this term they had to edit descriptive texts on Manchester and Hull. Last term we analysed texts about Birmingham and also a great text on the Tanami Track in Australia published on the BBC travel site.

Hope this helps. If you need any further info, let me know. I'm going to tweak it a bit for next term but essentially this will be the structure I will be using.