

Assignment 1:

30 August – 1 October

1.1 Learning outcomes

After completing the course, the student must have the skills to:

- explain the role of third-party logistics in commodity flow chains

1.2 Assignment

The task is that you as a group (see separate appendix with group division) must give an account of the role of the third-party logistician in a supply chain. You do this by comparing what we talked about during the lectures, as well as what any other theory says, with what the third-party logisticians and their customers themselves say.

The group must interview at least one third-party logistician (see separate appendix with list of 3PL companies) and one company that is, or could be, a customer of the third-party logistician. It is not certain that the third-party logistician will want to release the name of any customer, but it does not hurt to ask. The group must find out both sides' views on what the role of third-party logistics actually is.

You must create your own picture of what the role looks like, so prepare questions before the interviews to get as broad a picture as possible. Answers like *"we help our customers with everything they ask for in logistics"* don't say much, so try to get specific examples of services offered, ask the customer company to estimate the importance of having a third-party logistician on a scale of 1-10, ask what the alternative to the third-party logistician is would be, etc.

You then compare the answers you get from the companies with what we talked about during the lectures, as well as with other information you found on websites and similar sources. This will be the group's discussion, does the picture you got from the conversations agree with what the theory says? Is there anything different? If so, what and why?

In the discussion section, I want to see your own thoughts and reflections. I want you to give a summary picture, based on both theory and the interviews, of the role of the third-party logistician in a supply chain.

1.2.1 Separate paragraph for VG: The role of third-party logistics in the future (optional)

For a VG in the task, the group must take the discussion deeper and discuss trends, challenges and the future of 3PL companies. The logistics industry is constantly changing, what do you think the role of third-party logistics will look like in 5-10 years?

Here I want to see the group's own thoughts and reflections based on what you came up with in part G.

Remember to also ask questions about this during your interviews to get a better basis for discussion in this part.

NOTE: If someone in the group is satisfied with G, it is fine for the other group members to write this VG part. Therefore, state who participated and contributed to this part of the submission, even if everyone in the group participated.

1.3 Grading criteria

- For the grade Passed, the student must meet the requirements in accordance with the learning outcomes of the course. The submission must be well written and explain the role of third-party logistics in supply chains
- For the grade Well Passed, the student must analyze on a deeper level and discuss the role of the third-party logistician in the future as well.

1.4 Submission

The submission task is examined through written submission, see report template, as well as through oral discussion and reflection.

The written submission must consist of between 1,000-1,500 words and be named "Submission task1_group name". For the VG part, you have another 400-600 words.

During the oral examination, you will be divided into smaller groups and discuss and reflect further on what the different groups have arrived at.

The deadline for written submission is Sunday 1 October at 23:59 and submitted via Omniway.