

CANDIDATE INSTRUCTIONS for Pre-Philosophy Paper

Pre-Philosophy Paper - A pre-philosophy (Why I want to teach, become a principal, and etc.) paper must be written that is appropriate to the candidate's level of certification: elementary, middle school, secondary, special education, or advanced programs. This artifact is completed as an assignment in the course, and is graded by the professor of record. A scoring guide and a writing guide are provided for use as a reference when completing the assignment.

Assessor's Response:

The professor will use the scoring guide, which is a duplicate of the guide the candidate used, to grade the completed assignment.

GUIDELINES FOR WRITING THE PRE-PHILOSOPHY PAPER

I. THINKING ABOUT WHY I WANT TO BE A TEACHER (PRINCIPAL, ETC)

In order "to get your thoughts together" regarding why you want to be a teacher, the following chart is provided with topics to consider. Feel free to take notes on this chart. The chart should be used by you, only, as a reference for writing a paper explaining why you want to become a teacher (see section II.)

Prior experiences that influenced your decision to become a teacher.

- Significant people/teachers
- Previous experiences with children/students
- Family/Spousal expectations

Personal traits or characteristics of former teachers or others

- Personal character
- Emotional qualities
- Physical health/conditions
- Mental health
- Ethical practice

Activities of a teacher that might give you satisfaction.

- Interpersonal relationships with students/colleagues
- Planning instruction and teaching children/students
- Personal learning/observing children/students learn
- Collaborating with parents, families, and community partners
- Engaging in ethical practice
- Ongoing professional development opportunities

The public's perception of teachers

- Teacher advocacy groups/issues
- Teaching as public service
- The need for quality teachers

II. WRITING THE PAPER

A career as an educator can be very rewarding. The reasons why you want to be a teacher influence your own happiness as well as the happiness of children/students, families and coworkers. Understanding why you are selecting teaching as a career will help you to become a more productive professional. Using the notes compiled above, write a one to three page paper explaining why you want to be a teacher. You may use the following statements to guide your writing:

(You do not have to use any of the phrases.)

- I want to be a teacher because. . .
- I believe the purposes of education are. . .
- All teachers should have certain qualities. Qualities that I think are important are. . .
- I believe children learn best when. . .
- The curriculum of any classroom should include certain "basics." The basics are. . .
- I believe that teaching is a profession that requires. . .
- As a professional I plan to. . .
- I believe that service. . .

III. REFLECTING ON "WHY I WANT TO BE A TEACHER"

Now read the paper you wrote and examine it by color coding (highlighting) statements that reflect the following values:

USE RED for **Academic excellence** through critical, reflective, and creative thinking

USE GREEN for **Life-long learning** including reflective practice

USE YELLOW for **Collaboration** and shared decision-making

USE BLUE for **Openness** to new ideas, to culturally diverse people, and to innovation and change

USE GREY for **Integrity**, responsibility, diligence, and ethical behavior

USE ORANGE for **Service** that enriches the community

IV. REFLECTING PARAGRAPH

Write a paragraph reflecting the values, as evidenced in your color coding, which are most evident in your paper.

You may use the following statements to guide your writing of this paragraph.

- At the present time the values that I emphasized most in my paper. . .
- Even though I did not mention. . . . I think. . .

V. Scoring Guide

See the attachment.

VI. POST

Submit the completed pre-philosophy paper for grading by the professor

Include the following:

- 1) Your paper, which is color coded
- 2) Your reflecting paragraph
- 3) Attach the scoring guide for grading

Scoring Guide for Pre-Philosophy Paper

Candidate's Name: _____ SID #: _____

Certification Program/Teaching Field: Circle One: EC-4 4-8 8-12 All Level Advanced Program Area _____

Faculty Responsible for Collection: _____ Date: _____

CATEGORY	Exemplary 3	Acceptable 2	Unacceptable 1
Quality of Content	Candidate demonstrates a strong motivation to enter the profession by indicating commitment to serve children, schools, families and the community. Candidate content reflects dedication to the unit's values of academic excellence, life-long learning, collaboration, openness, integrity, and service.	Candidate demonstrates motivation to enter the profession and indicates a general commitment to serve others. Content reflects some affinity to the unit's values of academic excellence, life-long learning, collaboration, openness, integrity, and service	Candidate shows insufficient commitment to or understanding of the profession. Little evidence of the unit's values are expressed.
Critical and Reflective Evaluation of Values and Ideas	Candidate's response shows clear insight and thorough reflective analysis of the profession. The response fully evaluates personal values in relationship to the Unit's values	Candidate's response shows some reflection and analysis of the profession. Candidate evaluates their values in relationship to the Unit's values.	Candidate's response shows little or no reflective analysis or commitment to the profession. The Unit's values were ignored or insufficiently addressed and/or evaluated.
Written Communication Skills	Candidate shows excellent communication skills. Their work is highly organized and logical with well-constructed sentences and paragraphs. Grammar, spelling, formatting, and design show professionalism.	Candidate shows good communication skills. The work shows organization and logic. There are few, if any errors in grammar, spelling, formatting, and/or design. Sentences and paragraphs are functional.	Information is poorly written, disorganized and or too brief. There are critical mistakes in grammar, spelling, sentences, paragraphs formatting, and/or design.