

STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS
for
Philosophy Paper

Philosophy Paper - A philosophy 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.

Assignment:

Writing My Philosophy of Teaching Paper

1. Review your pre-philosophy paper. You may want to change some of the things you said or to add more information. As you study teaching education and observe good educators your philosophy may evolve and change.
2. Make notes on the topics below:

Prior Experiences
Significant people/teachers
Significant people/teachers
Previous experiences with children/students
Personal characteristics that teachers should possess
Personal character
Emotional qualities
Physical health
Mental health
Professional practice
Knowing children/students
Planning
Teaching
Collaborating with parents, families, and community partners
Engaging in ethical practice
Seeking ongoing professional development opportunities
The Public
Advocacy
Involvement

3. 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, revise your previously written paper to reflect your current philosophy. You will probably want to add more information to the professional practice and curriculum area stating how you want to teach reading, mathematics, social studies, science, etc. Think of your future employer as the targeted audience for this paper.

Originally you used the following statements to guide your writing:

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. . .

4. Reflecting on Your Philosophy of Teaching

Now read the paper you wrote and see if it reflects the values that we feel are so very important:

- Academic excellence through critical, reflective, and creative thinking
- Life-long learning including reflective practice
- Collaboration and shared decision-making
- Openness to new ideas, to culturally diverse people, and to innovation and change
- Integrity, responsibility, diligence, and ethical behavior
- Service that enriches the community

5. Reflecting Paragraph

Write a paragraph reflecting on how you have grown and changed as you progressed through the program.

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

- After taking these courses and preparing to teach, I think. . .
- My strongest asset is. . .
- I am still working on. . .

Scoring Guide for Philosophy Paper

Certification

Program/Teaching Field: _____

Candidate's Name: _____ SID #: _____ Circle One: EC-4 4-8 8-12
All Level Advanced

Program Area: _____

Faculty Responsible for Collection: _____ Date: _____

CATEGORY SCORE	Exemplary 3	Acceptable 2	Unacceptable 1	SCORE
Quality of Content	Candidate strongly demonstrates dispositions which reflect commitment to children, families, schools, the community and to the profession. Content reflects strong affinity to the Unit's values of academic excellence, life-long learning, collaboration, openness, integrity, and service.	Candidate demonstrates 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. The values of the Unit are minimally addressed or absent in the paper.	
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.	