

Due Nov. 7

Philosophy of Education Assignment

The goals of this assignment are to allow you to establish your initial philosophy of education and to allow others to see your beliefs on education, teaching, students, schools, etc. It will be a project where you are to express your philosophy of education in manner that you choose. This could be a paper, a video, a song, a blog, a presentation (i.e. Prezi or PowerPoint), a booklet, etc.

This project is a living project, as your philosophy of education will hopefully change as you move through your teaching career; it may become more sophisticated, more profound, or it may change completely. In this sense, your philosophy assignment will provide another opportunity to see how you develop throughout your career.

You will find it helpful in developing your philosophy of education project if you think of it in three parts. In your project, you should indicate briefly your thinking/beliefs about each section:

1) What you believe about:

- the nature of learners
- teaching/your role as a teacher
- schools
- the role of others (administrators, parents, etc.)

For example, are all students capable of learning? Do all learners have something to contribute, or is this purely the role of the teacher? Are learners innately curious or empty vessels to be filled with wisdom by the teachers, or from a textbook? Should parents participate in the schools or should education be left to professional teachers? This is where you might discuss philosophies you have studied (e.g. constructivism, behaviorism, perennialism, essentialism, progressivism, existentialism, and social reconstructionism).

2) What is knowledge and what is worth knowing?—i.e. what you value and the goals associated with those values about:

- the purpose of education
- the content you will select
- the skills you expect your students to develop

For example, do students need to be trained to be critical thinkers/problem solvers? Do students need to be trained, socialized, shaped, and/or controlled? What sort of conduct do you expect from students? Do they need to learn a trade, a skill, how to follow rules, obey the law or perform a job? Do they need to learn the content of various disciplines, facts, how to solve problems or how to cooperate in groups, make decisions, and interpret the world around them? Do they need to learn how to engage in social reconstruction? Should teachers actively involve parents and the community in their classrooms? Is life-long learning involved? You may want to consider putting something in this part about standards.