

## EDUC 170 PRINCIPLES OF TEACHING

### INDIVIDUAL COURSE ASSIGNMENT:

#### “MY PERSONAL PHILOSOPHY OF TEACHING” (20 points, due Day 5)

##### Overview:

For teachers and leaders in education, a *Personal Philosophy of Teaching* is a professional document often used within job applications or university applications. But, for all teachers, the process of writing one helps teachers examine and clarify: Why and how do I teach what I do? It also helps teachers recognize: Where and who do I teach? The process can also lead to identifying and organizing a clear vision and goals for future teaching and leadership. In the document, you are speaking to the importance of *your* ideas, *who* you are as a teacher, and goals you define for your teaching.

##### *Your* Personal Philosophy should:

- be 1-1.5 pages in length only
- be written in first person (as if you are speaking)
- include 3 parts: *your* beliefs about teaching (big ideas), something examples from your teaching, and your specific goals
- give *personal* examples or be specific about *your* own experience
- demonstrate you can be reflective, critical and purposeful
- tie together your points throughout the philosophy. For example, if you believe in respecting student autonomy, your goals should be consistent in ways that support student choices.

##### Questions to Guide You as you *Build* the Philosophy:

###### I. Several key principles (core beliefs, values, practices):

What do you believe is critical to teaching? For you, what defines good teaching? (e.g., I believe curiosity is critical to teaching, for both teacher and student)  
Why and how do these principles and practices inspire you?  
How might these practices impact students, a school, a community? Be specific.

###### II. Your Current Teaching (related to your key principles):

What do *you* find challenging in your teaching? Give an example  
What do *you* enjoy about your teaching?  
What are *your* strengths? Be specific.

###### III. Your Vision and Goals for the Future (related to your key principles and current teaching):

How do *you* see yourself in the future as a teacher or leader?  
What are some of *your* goals? What are some priorities?  
How can you build on what *you* know, or what *you* learned from the course? Give an example.

## Strategies Before Writing:

### **Brainstorm Ideas on paper (One hour)**

1. (20 minutes) Read over all your notes (letters, poems) you wrote during the course. Identify several key ideas *you want to include* in your Philosophy, for example: autonomy of students, respect, curiosity, hope, and so on. You cannot include everything from your notes. Choose 2-3 priorities. What ideas really speak to *you* about teaching? Why? Write a sentence or two for each (in your own words!).
2. (20 minutes) Reflect on your current teaching related to your key ideas. Make some sentences (on paper) about challenges you face daily as a teacher—a few examples. Also make some sentences (examples) about your strengths, how you deal with challenges. Write a few sentences about when you feel joy in your teaching. We want to *see* into your practice.
3. (20 minutes) Write down (on paper) how you imagine yourself as a leader in the future? (Don't be shy) List several goals that you would like to achieve over time. Make some notes about building on what you know or what you learned in the course.

## Document

When you are ready to write, use the **Document Template** I have emailed you in *Word*. I have set the margins, at 1" (right, left, top, bottom); font *Times* size 11. When you are ready to write, type on this page. When you have completed your writing, do a spell and grammar check in the *Tools* pull down menu. "Save" often as you type, so you do not lose anything. When you are finished, attach document to my email. In the subject, write your name and student #.