# Autobiographical Sketch (50 points)

## What is the Assignment?
- **Write a one-page autobiographical sketch to introduce yourself to your future principal**
  - Paragraph 1: Explain why you want to be a teacher*
  - Paragraph 2: Describe the characteristics you have that will make you an effective teacher.
  - Paragraph 3: Describe your long-term teaching goals and ambitions.

*Replace “Teacher” with Paraeducator, Counselor, Admin, etc., if other career is planned.

- **Plan ahead:** You have 1 week to complete this assignment
- **Submission:** Submit to Laulima Assignments by the due date handout found in Modules.
- **Video Instruction:** [Click here if you need instructor to talk you through the assignment](#)

## How is the Assignment Graded?
- An “A” paper will have the following criteria: [Click here for the overall scoring rubric](#)
  - **Paragraph #1**
    - Your explanation is appropriate and stays on-topic throughout
    - Your description of your beliefs is in-depth (8 sentences or more)
    - Your explanation contains few syntax or spelling errors
    - Your tone is positive and is professional

  - **Paragraph #2**
    - You describe appropriate characteristics throughout
    - Your description of your beliefs is in-depth (8 sentences or more)
    - Your explanation contains few syntax or spelling errors
    - Your tone is positive and is professional

  - **Paragraph #3**
    - You describe appropriate teaching/education goals throughout
    - Your description of your beliefs is in-depth (8 sentences or more)
    - Your explanation contains few syntax or spelling errors
    - Your tone is positive and is professional

## What Does an “A” Assignment Look Like?
- **Example #1** – [Autobiographical Sketch (no comments)](#)
- **Example #1** – [Autobiographical Sketch (with embedded instructor comments)](#)

**PLEASE USE EXAMPLES ONLY AS A GUIDE AND DO NOT COPY DIRECTLY INTO YOUR OWN WORK!**
Why Are We Doing This Assignment?

One of the first questions that you may be asked by your future principal or fellow teachers is “Tell us about yourself”. To help you prepare for that question and to get you thinking about “Who you are as an Educator”, this assignment asks you to write a one-page autobiographical sketch that will eventually become part of your teaching portfolio in ED 295 Service Learning.

Extended Assignment Instructions & Comments

Paragraph 1: Explain why you want to be a teacher (or counselor, etc)

- Let your future principal know what your reasons for becoming a teacher. If you plan to choose a career other than a teacher (counselor, administrator, etc), then change the focus of the sketch to represent your career. Below are some resources to jumpstart your thinking:
  - View 3 future teachers discuss why they want to be a teacher. (1:58)

Paragraph 2: Describe the characteristics that you have that will make you an effective teacher.

- Let your principal know who you are! Ex: You are organized, team player, patient…
  - View video describing what are the qualities of a good teacher. (4:04)
  - View video on how Hawai`i’s teachers are evaluated for effective teaching. (14:05)

Paragraph 3: Describe your long-term teaching goals and ambitions.

- Let your principal know how you will plan to grow as a life-long learner? Where do you see yourself in 20 years from now in terms of teaching and education? Just focus on teaching and don’t include non-teaching personal/family ambitions.

Suggestions for writing your autobiographical sketch

- **No required formatting**, but I suggest using 12-point font, single-spaced, at least 8 sentences for a paragraph to reach in-depth on the rubric, and 1-2 pages is fine.

- **Keep your language formal.** Your audience for the sketch is your future principal, so do your best to avoid conversational language. For example, avoid writing “So, I was thinking to myself and said hey, should I be a teacher?” Instead strive for, “I have always thought about being a teacher”.

- **Keep your sketch positive!** It is okay to describe the challenges that you overcame, but don’t frame those challenges negatively. Don’t give your future principal reasons not to hire you!

  - **Avoid Negative Phrases**
    - “I am lazy” and “I procrastinate”
    - “I didn’t want to be a teacher at first”
    - “I don’t really like students”
    - “I don’t like what schools are doing today”

  - **Use Positive Phrases**
    - “I am becoming better at being organized”
    - “I found my calling as a teacher later in life”
    - “I am finding ways to connect with students”
    - “I am motivated to make a difference in schools”

- **Add in some appropriate visuals!** Clear and appropriate images of yourself, a favorite quote, educational graphics or images for a section can help convey the message of your sketch. Not required, but encouraged!