Educational Philosophy Paper (100 points)

What is the Assignment?

- Over the course of the semester, you are to choose 3 beliefs and 3 lessons that best represent your educational philosophy and write a paragraph for each.* Then write an introduction and thesis for those 3 beliefs and combine everything into one final educational philosophy paper.

Divide your educational philosophy paper into 7 paragraphs.

- Paragraph 1: Introduction and Thesis Statement of 3 Educational Beliefs
- Paragraph 2: Educational Belief #1 Topic Sentence and Explanation
- Paragraph 3: Educational Belief #1 Lesson Example
- Paragraph 4: Educational Belief #2 Topic Sentence and Explanation
- Paragraph 5: Educational Belief #2 Lesson Example
- Paragraph 6: Educational Belief #3 Topic Sentence and Explanation
- Paragraph 7: Educational Belief #3 Lesson Example

*NOTE: Substitute “Lesson Example” with “Counseling Example”, “Administration Example”, etc., if other career is planned other than teaching.

- Plan ahead: You have all semester to develop your beliefs and 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

- Paragraphs 1-7
  - Your topic sentence for each belief is stated in clearly in one sentence
  - Your explanation for each belief is appropriate and in-depth (6 sentences)
  - Your lesson descriptions are specific and detailed for each belief
  - Your answers are clearly communicated and contain few errors
  - Your answers are positive in tone and avoids conversational language
  - Your answers follow the formatting and presentation instructions

What Does an “A” Assignment Look Like?

PLEASE USE EXAMPLES ONLY AS A GUIDE AND DO NOT COPY DIRECTLY INTO YOUR OWN WORK!

- Example #1 – Educational Philosophy (no comments)
- Example #1 – Educational Philosophy (with embedded instructor comments)
Why Are We Doing This Assignment?

“What do you believe is the purpose of education?” This is one of the questions that you will be asked as you become a teacher and it will also include how you will apply those beliefs in your classroom. Reflecting upon this question and organizing your beliefs is a great first step towards developing an educational philosophy that will guide your teaching throughout your career. This assignment will become part of your teaching portfolio in ED 295 Service Learning.

Extended Assignment Instructions & Comments

Educational Philosophy Paper Instructions

1. As you progress through the semester and complete assignments, reflect upon the ideas and concepts that you feel passionately about. Try your best to choose 3 beliefs that can serve as a foundation of your teaching.
   o Your educational philosophy beliefs are personal and there are no right or wrong beliefs. The challenge is being able to convince others about your beliefs and to defend why you are approaching teaching in the way that you think is best. This starts with being very clear about what those beliefs are, having clear support for each, and an example of what it might look like in the classroom. Thus, I ask you to follow a particular format below to make sure that happens in your paper.

2. Divide your educational philosophy paper into 7 paragraphs.
   o Paragraph 1: Introduction and Thesis Statement of 3 Educational Beliefs
   o Paragraph 2: Educational Belief #1 Topic Sentence and Explanation
   o Paragraph 3: Educational Belief #1 Lesson Example
   o Paragraph 4: Educational Belief #2 Topic Sentence and Explanation
   o Paragraph 5: Educational Belief #2 Lesson Example
   o Paragraph 6: Educational Belief #3 Topic Sentence and Explanation
   o Paragraph 7: Educational Belief #3 Lesson Example

*NOTE: Substitute “Lesson Example” with “Counseling Example”, “Administration Example”, etc., if other career is planned other than teaching.

3. Suggestions for writing your Educational Philosophy Paper.
   o 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, what do I believe in?” Instead strive for, “I have always believed that...” However, it is completely okay to use the “I” pronoun throughout the paper because it is your belief!

   o Add in some appropriate visuals! Clear and appropriate images of yourself or a lesson, a favorite quote, educational graphics or images for a section can help convey the message of your philosophy. Not required, but encouraged!
4. Review the resources below to help jumpstart your thinking on your educational beliefs.
   - Types of Philosophy of Education
     - Read Text pdf (pgs #93-97)
   - Developing your own Philosophy of Education
     - Read Text pdf (pgs #118-130)

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### Writing Paragraph 1: Introduction and Thesis Statement of 3 Educational Beliefs

**STEP 1:** List your 3 educational beliefs.

For example:
- Belief #1: Schools reaching out to the community
- Belief #2: Equitable instruction for students
- Belief #3: Creating positive classroom climates

**STEP 2:** Connect these three themes with a few linking words to create a thesis sentence that makes sense to YOU!

For example:
- I believe that the purpose of education is to provide equitable instruction for students by creating positive classroom climates and reaching out to the community.

**STEP 3:** Write an introductory paragraph that reflects or illustrates a part of your thesis statement and place the thesis sentence at the end.

- The purpose of the introduction paragraph is to “hook” or “grab” your reader. Sharing a personal experience about yourself, a favorite teacher, or a student you taught would work as long as you connected it to your thesis statement. You could also describe a great quote or story that illustrates your thesis. For example:

  - “When I reflect upon all the wonderful teachers that I have had in my life, I believe that I would most like to be Mrs. Robinson, my third grade teacher. She made everyone in the class feel as if they were her favorite student. One of my favorite memories is when she had each of us dress up as different characters in a Dr. Seuss book and we had to explain to each other who we were and what we like to do. It was a lot of fun and I remember that she always encouraged each of us to do the best we could do no matter what obstacles stood in our way. Mrs. Robinson’s class really reminded me of what education should be like for every student and it is how I want my classroom to be. Thus, I believe that education should provide equitable instruction for students by creating positive classroom climates and reaching out to the community.”

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### Writing Paragraph 2: Educational Belief #1 Topic Sentence and Explanation

**STEP 1:** Start your belief #1 paragraph by stating your belief and why it is important to education in a topic sentence (ONE SENTENCE).

- Avoid statements of importance that are vague or do not address why it important to education:
STEP 2: Provide an in-depth reason based on educational concepts (information learned in class) that supports why your belief is important to education (8 OR MORE SENTENCES)

- **Avoid listing a bunch of reasons that are never discussed at length:**
  - **Poor** - “I believe schools should reflect their community values because students will need to learn how to become a productive member of that community. It will also allow parents to become more involved with fund-raising and they will know how their child is doing in class. Schools can then know what is going on with the student at home and they can address problems such as behavioral problems. Behavior problems are a big reason why schools are not doing well… etc” (5 reasons listed, but none in-depth)
  
  - **Better** – “I believe schools should reflect their community values because students will need to learn how to become a productive member of that community. Education should not be viewed as a separate entity from the community, but rather an extension of it. This means that social norms of how to work, socialize, and cooperate in the community is passed onto the students at the school. This results in more cohesion and support for students and less conflict. …etc” (one reason listed and in-depth)

**Writing Paragraph 3: Educational Belief #1 Lesson Example**

**STEP 1: Describe an actual specific lesson in your own classroom that illustrates your belief (8 OR MORE SENTENCES).**

- **Avoid being vague or including your opinion while describing your lesson. Just describe the actual lesson for the entire paragraph. (Feel free to use lessons developed in other classes if appropriate).**

  - **Poor** – “In my classroom, I plan to do a project. The project will involve students researching their community and then presenting what they find to each other. I will have them write a paper also. It is important for students to do projects because hands-on learning is a great way to learn. I think using the internet is also a good way for students to explore their ideas…etc.

  - **Better** – “In my classroom, I plan to do a project called “My Community.” First, I will ask students that live near each other to form mini-communities. Then, I will have them develop a list of questions that they want to know about their communities and the students will then decide who will get what question. Next, I will have the students use Google maps to explore their community’s geography, do interviews with community leaders, and use the library for local stories…etc.

**Writing Paragraphs 4,5,6, & 7**
For rest of paragraphs, repeat steps describe for belief #1 above. So, paragraph 4 & 5 = belief #2 and paragraph 6 & 7 = belief #3. Make sure to add transition sentences between each paragraph to make the writing flow between beliefs.