

EDUC 203: The American Classroom
GUIDELINES FOR THE PERSONAL PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION
25 Points Possible – Due: Thursday, March 26
Ω No Resubmissions will be accepted

A statement of personal philosophy of education is a reflective piece, generally 1 – 1.5 pages (single spaced) or 2 – 3 pages (double spaced) long that summarizes your core educational beliefs (your core beliefs about the purpose, process, nature, and ideals of education). In addition to content, the statement must demonstrate mastery of spelling, grammar and other rules of written English.

A philosophy is not a curriculum statement or a description of your (future) teaching style. It is a statement about the beliefs and ideals that underlie your thinking. It is a set of beliefs that will regulate your actions. Your philosophy of education statement should outline your set of beliefs about the purpose, process, nature, and ideals of public education. However, the concept “education” is extremely complex. To begin with, education entails a process as well as an achievement. It encompasses various notions about the learner and the role of the teacher. And for different people it entails different ideas about the content to teach (knowledge, skills, and dispositions) and the meanings of teaching and learning.

Therefore, your essay should clearly state your beliefs about:

1. Elements of at least one of the following Philosophies:

- **Idealism/ Perennialism** – Subject Centered
- **Realism/ Essentialism** – Subject Centered
- **Pragmatism/ Progressivism** – Student Centered
- **Existentialism/ Reconstructivism (Critical Theory)** – Student Centered
- **Romanticism** – Student Centered

2. Elements of at least one of the following Related Theories of Learning:

- **Behaviorism**
- **Constructivism**
- **Humanism**

3. Explanation of your core beliefs about each of the following – (this should come naturally as the elements in sections one and two above include these elements):

- **The main purpose(s) of school**
- **The role of the teacher in learning**
- **The role of the students & how students best learn**
- **What should be taught in school**

In writing your statement, use your knowledge from other educational experiences (e.g., any classes at university or your elementary or secondary experiences, etc.) to support your beliefs with theory and sound argument. You are encouraged to use quotes by educational leaders and philosophers, who share your approaches and views toward education, teaching, and/or learning (**but avoid any unnecessary jargon!**). In the introduction, “hook” the reader. Begin with a strong statement & a brief preview of what you will be saying. Early in the statement state your future area of teaching (e.g., math teacher, elementary teacher, physical education teacher, special education teacher, etc.). In the conclusion, revisit your statement or story. Reiterate and summarize the main points of your philosophy. A good concluding statement or quote is necessary, if you want to “sell” your philosophy and made it memorable to the reader.

Although you may not think, you have a philosophy of education, it's there just under the surface; unseen but affecting every belief you hold about teaching and learning. Do you see children as blank slates on which to write, empty cups to fill, or flames to be ignited? These tacit beliefs determine how you look at the amorphous thing we call "education." (NOTE: The topic is PUBLIC EDUCATION, not teaching, so make education the focus of your paper. Picture yourself talking to your future principal. Help her/him get to know you by sharing your ideas about the purpose, process, nature, and ideals of education.)

In sum, the statement is a critical reflection that should be well written, organized, clear, and convincing. Your beliefs should relate to the quotes and philosophers that you select. Proofread for grammar, spelling, and accuracy. Your philosophy of education statement should be concise.



EDUC 203 – Philosophy of Education Evaluation Criteria/Scoring Guide (Rubric)

1. Introduction: a strong statement & a brief preview of what you will be saying
2. Elements of at least one of the following Philosophy Pairs (World Philosophy with related Educational Philosophy)
 - Idealism/ Perennialism – Subject Centered
 - Realism/ Essentialism – Subject Centered
 - Pragmatism/ Progressivism – Student Centered
 - Existentialism/ Reconstructivism (Critical Theory) – Student Centered
 - Romanticism
3. Elements of at least one of the following Related Theories of Learning (Psychological Orientations)
 - Behaviorism
 - Constructivism
 - Humanism
4. Explanation of your core beliefs about each of the following – (this should come naturally as the elements in sections one and two above include these elements)
 - a. The main purpose(s) of school
 - b. The role of the teacher in learning
 - c. The role of the students & how students best learn

- d. What should be taught in school
5. Conclusion: revisit your introductory statement; summarize the main points of your philosophy
6. Rules: of written English, accuracy, length (1 – 1.5 pages single spaced OR 2 – 3 double spaced) EDIT CAREFULLY! If you have difficulties with writing, please visit The Writing Center. This is a FORMAL essay – no slang, jargon, or conversational writing. Remember, will upload this document to Foliotek!

Denton's Comments:

Score: _____/25 possible