EDUC 300: Foundations of American Education

Philosophy of Education
Fall 2011

PURPOSE

To develop and articulate a personal philosophy of teaching and learning that reflects your personal values and the needs of your students.

INSTRUCTIONS

Your philosophy of education should include all of the following parts. Please divide your paper into sections using the following headers and make sure you address all the bullets under each section. Feel free to write in first person. Express yourself! Please try to keep it to 5-6 double-spaced typed pages.

1. The Purpose of Education
   ◆ Combine your personal experiences and knowledge gained from this class and other sources to describe what schools believe students should know and be able to do.
   ◆ What major historical events or trends have greatly influenced this belief? Ground your ideas in the educational literature related to this belief or beliefs.
   ◆ Where would you put yourself on the scale of “teacher-centered to student-centered” or “essentialist to existentialist?” And why? Consider all 5 philosophies of education.

2. Curriculum: What Should Be Taught and Why?
   ◆ How is curriculum selected? What subjects should be included?
   ◆ What skills should be encouraged across the curriculum in order to produce well-educated individuals? Give two examples of diverse students (race/ethnicity, poverty, LGBT, male/female, learning styles, disability/GT, ELL) and how their needs can be accommodated or differentiated for in the classroom.

3. Nature of the Learner
   ◆ What would the responsibilities of the learners be?
   ◆ How should students interact in the school environment with peers, teachers & administrators? Give examples for each

4. Teaching Methods That Should Be Used and Why.
   ◆ What type of physical learning environment should be created?
   ◆ How do you envision your classroom?
   ◆ What makes a school or classroom most effective? (Consider effective school research: pp. 157-165, 203, 250-251 and other research).

5. The Role of the Teacher
   ◆ What types of relationships should the teacher have with administration, fellow teachers, parents/guardians, and students?
   ◆ What do these relationships “look like?” Give brief examples.
   ◆ What values should you promote?
   ◆ What is your job?

6. Ongoing Professional Development
   ◆ How will continue your professional growth to better understand and realize your philosophy?
   ◆ What are those things that you need to start, stop, and continue doing to become a successful educator and professional?