

Educational Autobiography Paper

Due: Week 4

Points: 100

Rubric: Blackboard

Writing your educational autobiography should help clarify your beliefs about teaching and learning. There are three main parts to this assignment:

An overview of your educational experiences

A description of special events or significant experiences in your education

Your answer to the question: *Why do I want to teach?*

1. Begin with an overview of your schooling. Items to address include:

- The nature of the communities where you lived when you attended elementary and secondary schools;
- The relationship between the schools you attended and the community (or communities) where you lived;
- The attitudes of your parents/guardians toward education and schooling;
- The nature the schools you attended (e.g., size, public, private, etc.);
- The composition of student body in the schools you attended, including racial, religious, academic, gender, sexual orientation, and social class diversity;
- The composition of teaching staff in the schools you attended, including racial, religious, gender, sexual orientation, and social class diversity;
- Gender (or other) patterns observed regarding which teachers taught which subjects;
- The composition of school administrators (e.g., principal, asst. principal, school counselor, office staff, etc.), including racial, religious, gender, sexual orientation, and social class diversity

Consider questioning your parents or your former teachers about what they remember regarding your educational experiences.

2. Next, write about significant experiences connected to your education that influenced your attitudes about school, teaching, or learning. Describe these events in detail, telling what happened, how you felt about the event, and the attitude it engendered in you.

Items to address can include (as applicable):

- Significant positive and negative teacher role models in elementary and secondary schools, including the diversity of these teachers
- Significant *positive* school experiences (what happened? how did you feel? what was the result or consequence?)
- Significant *negative* school experiences (what happened? how did you feel? what was the result or consequence?)
- Any significant events related to school as an academic experience, a social experience, a cultural experience, a social class (SES) experience, or a religious experience
- Significant events related to participation in your peer group(s)

- Significant events related to participation in extracurricular activities
- Significant events related to personal accomplishments in school
- Significant events related to prior teaching experiences outside K-12 classrooms
- Significant events related to experience with people from other cultures, in prior work and prior non-school teaching

3. Describe how your prior experiences and attitudes have influenced you to consider becoming a teacher. Items to address include:

- Rationale that tells why you are considering teaching as a career. The rationale should build connections between experiences described in the paper and your desire to teach.
- Your top priorities as a teacher. What 2-3 goals do you want to accomplish in your work as an educator?

Review the rubric before you submit your paper.