

## The Philosophy of Education

A Philosophy of Education is a brief (1-2 pages) description of your goals and beliefs as a teacher. There is no 'right' or 'wrong' in a personal philosophy; your philosophy is a reflection of your own beliefs, experiences, ideas, and education. The writing of such a document is not only practical – many student teaching placements and employers read these during the selection process – but is extremely beneficial for you! Taking the time to really think and write about what you personally believe helps you to focus on why you are entering the world of education and what is most important to you as a facilitator of learning.

**\*\*Remember: YOUR philosophy is a statement of YOUR beliefs and how these will be put into action in YOUR classroom. This is not a theoretical essay on education.**

There are many things you could include in your educational philosophy, but for the present student teaching application, we have provided a list of questions to help guide your thinking.

**\*\*Remember: your Philosophy of Education should only be 1-2 typed pages. It should be short and sweet, but comprehensive and well thought-out.**

### Questions to ponder as you write...

- ✓ What is the purpose of education?
- ✓ What is the role of the student in education?
- ✓ What is the role of the teacher in education? ...in the community?
- ✓ *Why* do you want to teach?
- ✓ How will you reach the wide diversity of children that you will encounter in the classroom?
- ✓ What are your beliefs about how children learn, and how will these beliefs impact your teaching?

Consider the following areas:

- Classroom management
  - Instructional strategies
  - Curriculum design
  - Assessment
- ✓ How do you balance the needs of individual learners with the needs of the entire class?
  - ✓ What are your goals for your students?
  - ✓ What will be your relationship with the community, parents, colleagues, administration, etc.?
  - ✓ How will your faith impact your teaching?
  - ✓ What is the role of technology in the classroom?

### Other important things to consider...

1. Although the philosophy is a declaration of your own educational beliefs, you may 'name drop,' when appropriate, people, readings, thinkers, etc. that have greatly impacted your beliefs.
2. **Appropriate grammar is MANDATORY!** - Be sure to write using complete sentences.
3. A philosophy does not have a cover page; be sure your name and title is on the first page!
4. Your education philosophy should have an intro and conclusion.
5. Avoid using the same words or phrases over and over. For example, avoid using the word 'teacher' several times in the same paragraph...the thesaurus is your friend!
6. **Be positive** – while there may well be problems with our educational system, a prospective employer does not want to hear the negative, he is interested in what you are going to do to make the classroom experience a positive one for students. This is philosophy, not a critique.
7. Appearance is important!
  - a. Use a standard font – it must be readable.
  - b. Keep the font size at 11-13.
  - c. Use 1" or 1.25" margins.
8. **Have fun!** This is a time to explore what you think and believe!