

## Statement of Educational Philosophy

In a well-written essay, discuss your personal philosophy of education that presents your beliefs and motivations as you move through your professional preparation. Your statement of philosophy is important because it provides focus and emphasis for your work with students. There is no “right” philosophy and it will change throughout your educational career.

The following questions may help you identify essential elements of your philosophy, although they are not intended to be a point-by-point outline for your statement:

- \*What is the purpose of education?
- \*What goals do you want your students to achieve?
- \*What are the students’ roles and responsibilities?
- \*What is the nature of teacher’s role?
- \*What is the teacher’s role in educational renewal and reform?
- \*What is the ideal curriculum?
- \*What instructional methods or strategies are most effective?
- \*What is the most effective learning environment?

In the essay, clearly state your belief about the overall purpose of education or schooling, and discuss why you are committed to carrying out this purpose in your work as an educator. Identify at least three beliefs you hold or practices you plan to use as an educator in meeting your purpose. Use examples from field experience, personal experience, assigned readings, professional or popular literature, class discussions or other sources to support or expand on each belief. Refer to the scoring rubric below for guidelines in constructing the essay.

### Rubric

	Meets Expectations	Needs Improvement	Unsatisfactory
<b>Introductory Statement</b>	Clear statement of overall purpose of education or schooling, detailing why the author is committed to working in the field.	General statement of value of education, with discussion of commitment to working in field.	No overarching statement regarding purpose of schooling.
<b>Supporting Content</b>	At least three beliefs of the author’s personal philosophy of education linking to purpose of education or schooling are discussed. Specific examples from field experience, literature, discussions, or other experiences are provided.	At least two personal beliefs are discussed, with examples given; or three beliefs discussed on general, societal level rather than personal level.	Less than two personal beliefs are discussed.
<b>Organization</b>	Statement is developed with a clear introduction, body of essay linked to introduction, and conclusion that summarizes key points.	Two of three parts are strong.	One or fewer parts are strong.
<b>Grammar and Spelling</b>	"Perfect" paper - no significant errors in grammar, spelling, sentence structure, or punctuation.	Good sentence skills with few minor errors in spelling and punctuation.	Many mechanical and sentence skills errors - numerous fragments, run-on sentences, subject/verb agreement errors.