

WRITING IN THE DISCIPLINES: EDUCATION

Educators ask questions that are practical, theoretical, and reflective; these topics are explored through reflective essays, journals, field notes, curriculum designs, lesson plans, reviews of instructional materials, case studies, research papers, self-evaluations, and portfolios

AUDIENCE

Educators create an array of materials. Depending on the assignment type, an educator's audience will include school administrators, teachers, students, parents, and policymakers

STYLE CONVENTIONS

- Evidence used in writing may be **qualitative and quantitative**
- The personal pronoun “I” is commonly used in reflective writing.
- Research papers and case studies are generally written in the third person and in a formal, objective tone
- Educators have specialized vocabulary that includes terms such as “pedagogy,” “practice,” “curriculum,” “assessment,” and “achievement tests.”
- Since the field of education draws on various disciplines, including psychology, history, and sociology, it is important to be aware of writing conventions in those disciplines as well.
- Writing style in American Psychological Association (APA) and the Chicago Manual of Style (CMS)

TYPES OF ASSIGNMENTS

- **Reflective Essays, Journals, and Field Notes:** Reflect on own attitudes, beliefs, and experiences; this may serve as a basis for an essay
- **Curriculum Designs and Lesson Plans:** Courses that focus on teaching methods might require the design of individual lesson plans
- **Reviews of Instructional Materials:** Assess value of a set of instructional materials for classroom use
- **Case Studies:** Analyze specific student, teacher, or classroom interactions; determine how the process of teaching or learning takes place or how an event can illuminate something about learning or classroom dynamics
- **Research Papers:** Focus on broader educational issues that require research; then formulate ideas about the topic
- **Self-Evaluations:** Evaluate own teaching and learning
- **Portfolios:** Provide information about teaching experience and teaching philosophy

TAKEAWAY TIPS

- Qualitative evidence includes statistics, survey results, test scores
- Quantitative evidence includes case studies, observation, personal experience
- Ask yourself: How do my perceptions of my own education influence the way I approach teaching?



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