

Autobiography of Learning and Philosophy of Education

Due: Tuesday, September 8, 2026

Points: 100

Length: Minimum 1,200 words

Submission: Moodle

Purpose

This assignment asks you to reflect on the experiences, ideas, people, and communities that have shaped you as a learner and your developing understanding of teaching.

You are **not expected to have a finished philosophy of education** at this point. This assignment establishes a starting point that you will revisit throughout the semester as you learn from students, course readings, your Subject Area Specialist, field experiences, and your own teaching.

The central question is:

- **How have your experiences and preparation shaped what you currently believe about education, teaching, and learning?**

What to Write

The areas listed below are **guides for your thinking, not a checklist of separate sections you must complete**. You may organize your narrative in whatever way best communicates your experiences and developing ideas.

As you write, consider:

1. What experiences have shaped you as a learner?

Identify significant educational, family, community, cultural, or other experiences that have influenced how you understand learning. You do not need to tell your entire educational history. Select experiences that matter and explain why.

2. How has your preparation shaped how you think about teaching?

Consider your subject-area preparation, education coursework, professional experiences, work with young people, community experiences, or other forms of preparation. Focus on what you have learned from these experiences rather than simply listing them.

3. What are you beginning to believe about teaching and learning?

Consider your developing beliefs about students, knowledge, learning, the role of the teacher, and the purpose of education. What has led you toward these beliefs?

4. What is your developing philosophy of education?

What kind of educator are you working to become? What commitments are beginning to guide you, and why?

Evaluation

Criteria	Points
Depth of reflection and analysis	30
Connections across experiences and preparation	20
Developing philosophy of education	25
Engagement with relevant ideas and questions	15
Organization and communication	10
Total	100

I am not evaluating whether your philosophy agrees with mine or with a particular scholar. I am interested in your ability to explain **what you believe, what has shaped those beliefs, and why those beliefs matter for the educator you are becoming.**

Connection to Your Portfolio

Save this assignment and the feedback you receive. It becomes the foundation for **Section I: Autobiography of Learning and Philosophy of Education** in your Reflective Teaching Portfolio. The portfolio asks you to return to your educational experiences, preparation, theories of learning, and developing philosophy as your thinking evolves throughout the semester.

Before submitting, ask yourself:

Can someone reading this understand what I currently believe about education, where those beliefs come from, and why they matter to the educator I am becoming?