

Reflection Paper Writing Guide

Northwest University College of Education Graduate & GYO Programs

This portion of the application is an exercise in self-reflection. Our intent is to get a sense of how well you can communicate in writing and who you might be as a teacher. Use the questions below and the rubric on the next page to guide your writing. **In 2-3 pages, be sure to thoroughly address each of the four essay sections.** (double-spaced, 11-pt font).

- 1) **Teaching Experience:** What formal or informal teaching experiences have you had? In brief, describe each experience (e.g., age of learner(s), setting, responsibilities, etc.). What did you learn from each experience?

- 2) **Teaching Desire:** How did the experiences described above confirm a calling for teaching/education? Why do you want to be a teacher? What is it about the teaching profession that attracts you? What do you look forward to most when you think about being a teacher? What scares you about teaching?

- 3) **Cultural Awareness/Quotient:** We can define our differences or diversity in many ways (socioeconomic status, nationality, race, gender, etc.). How have your experiences with people who come from a different background or those who have had histories you never will, challenged your worldview? How will these experiences with people who are different than you inform your teaching style and philosophy?

- 4) **Professional Disposition:** Professional educators need to be collaborative colleagues, self-regulated learners, effective communicators, and adaptable people. Relay an example of you demonstrating a professional disposition in a complicated situation.

RUBRIC	
<i>General Scoring Guide</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Exceeds Standard; exemplary	3
Meets Standard; adequate	2
Approaching Standard; weak	1
Below Standard; unacceptable	0

Mechanics & Organization		
<i>Evaluate the following mechanics aspects of the paper.</i>		Score
M/O 1.1	Word choice is appropriate for college-level writing	(0-3)
M/O 1.2	Grammar is sound	(0-3)
M/O 1.3	Punctuation is used properly and serves to clarify meaning	(0-3)
M/O 1.4	Paragraphs are structured, cohesive, and coherent; content flows	(0-3)
Content		
<i>Evaluate the following organization aspects of the paper.</i>		Score
C 2.1	Teaching experiences	(0-3)
C 2.2	Teaching desire	(0-3)
C 2.3	Cultural awareness	(0-3)
C 2.4	Professional disposition	(0-3)