

Evaluation: Connections Journal

This journal may be kept in a notebook in journal form or be typed—whichever is easier for you. In this journal, you will reflect upon the weekly readings and attempt to draw connections between the readings and your discipline, society, schooling, etc. Journals will be collected and commented upon once during the semester and then again at the end of the courses. Journals will be graded according to how complete and thoughtful the entries are.

Some things to ask yourself about your journal: Are you being thorough? For example, instead of just saying, “This reminds me of something that happened in my field placement,” did you explain what that something was? Are your connections deep? For example, instead of saying that two chapters related to each other, did you explain why they are related and how this will affect your work as a teacher? Are your connections really obvious or subtle and personally meaningful? (Not to say that this is a “subtlety contest” but I want you to make connections that are meaningful to you, not just surface comparisons). Have you talked both about personal and professional significance or connections? In other words, it’s one thing to say that the chapter offers insights about the history of diversity in America, but it’s another to explain what that means to you, how this knowledge influences your work as a teacher, how it relates to what you’re seeing in schools, etc. How have the readings, practicum experiences, and class experiences changed you as a person and as a professional? Your connections journal will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

Criterion	1	3	5	Score
Depth of Thought	Author appears to have not spent much time on the journal, includes little reflection on concepts and readings. The journal seems “thrown together”.	Author appears to have thought about the concepts and readings but does not fully explain his or her thoughts and opinions.	Author clearly has thought about the concepts and readings, fully explains thoughts and opinions. Entries are clear and thorough.	X3=
Personal Connections	Author makes little or no mention of how information affects him/her personally.	Author connects concepts to his or her own life but is hesitant to tackle tough issues or to speak in anything but vague and ambiguous terms.	Author connects concepts to his or her own life. Author is willing to explore tough issues and discuss his or her own ideas and experiences.	x2=
Schooling/ Society Connections	Author makes little or no mention of how course readings and activities affect his or her thoughts on teaching or society.	Author discusses teaching and society but in very general terms. Author is unwilling or unable to apply information to him- or herself as a teacher.	Author connects concepts and activities to schooling and society. Author fully discusses how concepts and activities impact his or her work as a teacher and him or her as a member of society.	X2=
Clarity of Communication	Discussion is extremely difficult to follow.	Discussion is mostly clear, with few mistakes in grammar, usage, punctuation, etc. that hinder understanding.	While grammar, usage, etc. may not be perfect, the errors do not hinder understanding of the text.	X1=
Total:				

Grading Scale: 36-40 A 32-35 B 28-31 C 24-27 D 0-23 F