

**Education Seminar  
Best Practices Journal Entries**

Students will complete weekly journal entries on the discussion board in response to a specific prompt. While the primary purpose of the journal entry is reflection on the field experience, students are expected to refer to at least one source using APA citation style. Responses should be 2 well-developed paragraphs in length. Each student is expected to respond to at least one other classmate in a meaningful way.

<b>Points</b>	<b>Quality: Main Post</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Quality: Responses</b>
<b>Exemplary</b>  <b>8</b>	Student fully addresses the prompt and reflection demonstrates a high degree of critical thinking in applying, analyzing, and evaluating key course concepts. Conveys strong evidence of reflection on own work. Insightfully synthesizes current experience into future implications. Includes at least one source and uses APA style.	<b>2</b>	Responds to at least one classmate in a way that is meaningful. Asks a question, shares an example or offers a suggestion.
<b>Acceptable</b>  <b>6</b>	Student adequately addresses the prompt and reflection demonstrates some degree of critical thinking in applying, analyzing, and/or evaluating key course concepts. Conveys evidence of reflection on own work. Demonstrates some thought of the future implications of current experience. Includes at least one source but may not use APA style.		
<b>Developing</b>  <b>4</b>	Student somewhat addresses the prompt and reflection demonstrates limited critical thinking in applying, analyzing, and/or evaluating key course concepts. Conveys limited evidence of reflection on own work. Demonstrates minimal thought of the future implications of current experience. Does not include any sources.	<b>1</b>	Responds to at least one classmate but the response is simplistic and does not add anything new to the conversation.
<b>Poor</b>  <b>2</b>	Student does not address the prompt and reflection lacks critical thinking. Superficial connections are made with key course concepts. Conveys inadequate evidence of reflection on own work. Future implications are overlooked. Does not include any sources		
<b>Incomplete</b>  <b>0</b>	Journal entry is missing or incomplete.	<b>0</b>	Does not respond to a classmate.

## Journal Prompts

Journal	Journal Prompt
1	What are the most important things to take into account when planning a lesson?
2	What strategies can you use to develop knowledge of your students? How does this help to build strong, positive relationships with students from diverse backgrounds?
3	What does it mean to value your students? How do you show students that they are valued? Provide specific examples both from sources and from your own observations of teachers in the past and your current placement.
4	What role does the physical environment play in classroom management? What are some best practices in organizing the physical space of your classroom?
5	What is the difference between classroom management and supporting positive behavior? Why is this particularly important for students from marginalized backgrounds?
6	What challenging behaviors have you witnessed or do you anticipate in the classroom? What are some best practices for (a) preventing and (b) responding to one of those challenging behaviors?
7	How can you use what you know about your students and their backgrounds to design engaging instruction? <u>In your response please pay particular attention to engaging students from marginalized groups.</u>
8	How can a teacher create a culturally responsive/relevant classroom environment? (describe 2-3 strategies) How can this impact student engagement?
9	What are the hallmarks of an assessment that is designed with equity in mind? Why are data from these assessments more meaningful?
10	You have completed 5 of the 8 PDE Ethics Modules at this point. So far, what are the keys to being an ethical teacher?
11	What strategies does your mentor use to communicate with families and communities? What strategies do you think that you will use as a teacher to engage families from diverse backgrounds?
12	What role does technology play in your classroom? What are some best practices for incorporating technology into instruction?
13	What makes feedback meaningful to students? What are best practices in delivering feedback?