

EDU 155/255 ASSIGNMENT#1: BACKGROUND FILE

The following TPE will be assessed for this assignment:

TPE 3.1 Understanding and Organizing Subject Matter for Student Learning

Demonstrate knowledge of subject matter, including the adopted California State Standards and curriculum frameworks

10 POINTS

Goal

Demonstrate understanding of History/Social Science Content Standards of the California Department of Education for your selected grade level by writing a "Teacher Background File" on a social studies topic of your choice for a particular grade level.

Topical Understanding

As student in EDU 155/255, you will be required to complete a Unit of Study on an important idea/concept from the social studies framework. This background file will be useful to you as you develop your unit.

Topical Questions

What do you already understand about this standard (subject matter)? What else do you need to more deeply understand this topic?

What do your students need to know about this (history) in order to internalize the standard?

How can the History/Social Science Framework help you to better understand what the standards is asking the students to learn?

Task

A "background file" is a document meant for teacher to use to "get smarter" about the content they need to teach students. It is written for adults and meant to guide teachers into the "heart" of the topic. Your challenge is to summarize your topic and develop your ideas about what makes the study of this topic important.

STEP ONE

Research. Use your chosen standard as your guide and think like a historian by looking at primary sources, listening to pod casts, and reading to gain as much information about the topic. Try to gather as much information as you can from multiple perspectives.

STEP TWO

Write a 3-4 page paper that explains what you think are the important ideas/elements of this topic also:

1. Summarize core information for this topic-who, what, where, when, why, how (hint: the framework can guide you to some of the important areas to focus on)

STEP THREE

1. **Paper Submission:** Submit all written document as a single Word file via the Canvas Drop Box on or before date due. (Scan and merge documents as needed.) Be sure the

written reflection is written in full prose and tells the complete story of your experience and considers the topics listed above.

RUBRIC FOR TEACHER BACKGROUND FILE (10 pts)

Understanding:

- Deep content knowledge is a crucial first step in designing units that facilitate student understanding.
- Primary source research helps teachers uncover multiple perspectives on a topic, (not usually revealed by “textbook” coverage.)

Specific Product: A 3-4-page “teacher background file” that explains what you think are the important ideas/elements of this topic and is written for other teachers to “get smarter” about the content they need to teach students.

Traits/ Scale	Summary of Information (Assignment prompt #1)	Critical Reflection & Analysis (Assignment prompts # 2-4)
TPEs Addressed	TPE 3.1 Understanding and Organizing Subject Matter for Student Learning Demonstrate knowledge of subject matter, including the adopted California State Standards and curriculum frameworks.	TPE 3.1 Understanding and Organizing Subject Matter for Student Learning Demonstrate knowledge of subject matter, including the adopted California State Standards and curriculum frameworks.
Weights	70%	30%
3	Summary is detailed, complete and appropriate draws on FOUR sources and includes reference list (7 pts)	Importance of topic is identified with convincing and detailed rationale Explanation of why this is important is clear and detailed Multiple perspectives are identified in expanded form if appropriate Anticipated possible misconceptions are appropriate and detailed. (3 pts)
2	Summary is mostly complete and appropriate drawing on 4 sources with reference list (5 pts)	Importance of topic is identified with some rationale Explanation of why this is important is clear Multiple perspectives are described adequately with some detailed description (if appropriate) Anticipated possible misconceptions are identified and appropriate (2 pts)
1	Summary is partial, vague or only somewhat appropriate, or does not meet the	Importance of topic is identified with little supporting evidence or rationale Little or no explanation of why this is important

	requirements of the assignment (4 pts)	Multiple perspectives are inadequately described or missing Anticipated possible misconceptions are lacking. or inappropriate. (1 pt)
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