

FSA 620 Reflective Essay about Behavioral Response & Support

Purpose:

Writing this paper should push you to integrate what you've read from Greene, Bailey, our class notes and even Kohn's lures for learning that we'll discuss next week. Behavior is such an issue in schools, it causes incredible stress and heartache, and results in so many unrealized possibilities for kids, families and teachers. Reading as much as you can about behavior is great but really pull the readings inside yourself, question them and question your own perceptions and opinions. Reflect on your own background and responses- when you read something and think "yes!" or when you read something that makes you uncomfortable or that you vehemently disagree with – those reactions are all worth contemplating and writing about. Let these authors push your knowledge to a new place and you will get more out of this class.

For me, this paper is formative assessment, it will tell me at this point in the semester how sophisticated your thinking is, and whether you seem to be thinking about behavior from multiple viewpoints and in some depth. It will help me see your philosophy and orientation to problems and challenges. As I learn more about you, I can be more of a support and resource as the semester continues.

Why a paper instead of a project or activity? Writing creates a space for sustained thought about a subject or question. Moreover, writing forces you to explain and articulate your thinking to others who have experienced the world differently but care about your ideas. As you write, you develop new expertise and come into a new relationship with your subject. And - this enables you to talk in a new, more confident and more thoughtful way about the topic of behavior support.

In reading your writing I will look for the depth of your thinking and the care and thoughtfulness of your reading. (trust me, your writing reveals how you're reading)

A professor of mine used to say,

"there's no such thing as good writing, there's only good re-writing". It's true- no 1st draft is ever an A paper ☺ I strongly recommend you have a complete draft of your paper 5 days before you plan to submit it. Yep, I said 5.

Then for 5-10 minutes every day, open the document, read it over and edit. Your writing improves each time you work on it. The hardest part is sitting in front of a blank page so force yourself to start but never confuse your 1st or 2nd draft with a final product.

Technical details:

- Length - minimum 3 pgs. and maximum 10 pgs.
- APA style – 1" margins, 12 pt font, no decorative fonts, double-spaced.
- Edit for spelling & grammar- they matter – have someone else edit it too.
- Keep quotes to a minimum. Why? Quotes are what someone else said and I want to know what YOU think. When you are tempted to use a quote that you think is really powerful – stop- read the quote again and explain in your own words why it's so great, why it speaks to you. You will be surprised at your own ability to write without quoting.