EPI Applicant’s
Guidelines for Writing a Philosophy of Education
350-500 word essay

Philosophy of Education Statement - A philosophy of education provides a framework for thinking about education issues and guides professional growth. Throughout our teaching, life experiences, and education, you have undoubtedly developed opinions and ideas regarding what education means to you…and how you would bring meaning to teaching. You have the opportunity to shape these ideas and begin crafting your philosophy of education. Typical issues addressed in such statements may include:

- What is the purpose of schools?
- How do you define teaching?
- What are the roles of a teacher in education?
- What are the roles of students in education?
- Why are you interested in teaching?
- What do you want for students?
- What content and skills do you believe schools should teach?
- What teaching methods do you feel are most effective?
- What will you do to help students learn and develop as individuals and as citizens?
- How has your philosophy of education been influenced by your own education?

Use this essay to synthesize your current understanding and insights about schools, education and their purpose. Typically, essays are about two to three pages long, but you decide the length that it takes you to share your ideas effectively and clearly. Does your writing skill count? Absolutely! A well-written essay will include thoughtful insights, creativity, and be well organized…and, of course, free of spelling and grammar errors.

Your educational philosophy is a live document and will grow and change as you progress through the EPI program. You will use this document in Professional Foundations and continue to mold your philosophy as your knowledge of education expands.