

ADED 42292 Practicum

Assignment 1

School Culture Visual Essay

Assignment Description: Investigate the culture of the school and community. Collect information by traveling around the community viewing your students' environments--homes, businesses, recreation areas, etc.; meet with members of the administration, guidance counselors, teachers and other school personnel in your first few days and listen to them; investigate the socio-economic and ethnic makeup of the community and school; look for school district data (Chamber of Commerce, Ohio Dept. of Education website, and possibly district publications/websites); explore websites and other materials; attend a faculty meeting, board of education meeting, view some extra curricular activities (football game, clubs), and/or participate in lunch room discussions. Learn all you can about who your students are and the contexts within which they are learning. Then, prepare a visual essay that explains what you have learned about the culture and how that will help you as a teacher. You may choose to create a movie, a website, a PowerPoint slideshow, or something else.

What is a visual essay? A Visual Essay is a popular genre for magazines and on-line sites of all sorts. In this kind of composition most of the work is done with carefully selected and arranged photographs, with words playing a less important role: usually just an introduction and/or title and some captions. A Visual Essay is a good way to develop composition skills apart from extensive writing.

What we will expect (the rubric):

1. What does the demographic and other data about your school (i.e., test scores, poverty level, funding, graduation rates, percentages of students on IEPs, percentages of English Language Learners, numbers of students going on to post-secondary schools) tell you about your school and what does it mean for your teaching?

Expectations: Provide a description of your school that is rich and supported by relevant data where appropriate and available, indicating a good understanding of factors impacting learning and learners and how this knowledge will impact your curriculum and teaching. (TWS 1.1)

_____/10 points for reporting of data

_____/10 points for what it means for your teaching

2. What are the social and political factors in your community that could influence your teaching? And, what do these mean for your teaching this fall?

Expectation: Visual essay reflects that you understand the political and social context, tensions within the school and community, and ideas for how you will "handle" these things. (TWS 1.2)

_____/10 points for the factors

_____/5 points for what it means for your teaching

3. What does/do the culture(s) of members of your school community mean for your teaching?

Expectation: Your visual essay will show us that you have a thorough understanding of language, cultural practices, family goals, values and priorities as well as examples of how this knowledge will be applied in your instructional decisions this fall. (TWS 1.3)

_____/10 points for the factors
_____/5 points for what it means for your teaching

4. Visual Essay Product

- a) **Selecting most effective details** to best represent your focused viewpoint/opinion/attitude about the subject
- b) **Creating an effective introduction** to set the viewer's focus
- c) **Arranging details** in a sequence that is effective and visually engaging
- d) **Imagery, sound, graphic design, etc.** that helps to create a powerful visual effect

_____/50 points

TOTAL POINTS: _____/ 100