

Number: _____

Reviewer: _____

Essay Rubric

Directions: Circle one-point value (1-4) for each trait listed below After reviewing total the points and refer to the scale provided. The final points should be between 0-3. If there are questions in regards to this rubric, please contact Sara Knepper.

ECE & ELEM Prompt: Teaching and learning change lives in many ways. In the College of Education, teacher preparation programs focus on how education changes lives in socially just and equitable ways. In a 500-750 word essay, explain how education has impacted your life and/or community positively and negatively. Then, discuss how your educational experiences will help you to be a socially just teacher.

| Traits | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| Content | Main ideas are connected to the prompt; all aspects of the prompt are clearly addressed. Explicitly connects their experience to their future teaching. | Main ideas are connected to the prompt but the author strays from the prompt or does not fully address the prompt. Struggles to connect past educational experiences to their future teaching. | Main ideas are somewhat clear. Not everything in the prompt is addressed. The author strays significantly from the prompt. Connection of past educational experiences to their future teaching is unclear or not developed. | The applicant did not address the prompt well. Connection of past educational experiences to their future teaching is unclear or not present. |
| Evidence/Support | Includes substantial, logical, specific, and/or illustrative examples of the positive and/or negative educational experiences and impact of past educational experiences on future teaching. | Includes sufficient, logical, sound, and consistent examples of the positive and/or negative educational experiences and impact of past educational experiences on future teaching. | Includes examples of the positive and/or negative educational experiences and impact of past educational experiences on future teaching that are not sufficient or specific. Some unsupported generalizations. | Includes few or no examples of the positive and/or negative educational experiences and impact of past educational experiences on future teaching; frequent generalizations without support. |
| Organization | Organization is logical, sequential, and coherent, making insightful connections among ideas; ideas are linked with smooth and effective transitions. | Organization is logical and coherent, makes connections among ideas; has transitions. | Attempts to organize writing, but paragraphs are disconnected with weak or missing transitions; structure is weak. Essay is readable. | Organization is confusing, disjointed, and/or weak. Transitions are missing, inappropriate, or illogical. Essay is difficult to understand. |
| Sentence Structure, Grammar, Mechanics, & Spelling | Exhibits skillful, effective, and powerful use of language, exceptional vocabulary range and accuracy of usage, and variety in sentences. The author makes no errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling. | Most sentences are well constructed with good vocabulary range. The author makes a few errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling, but they do not interfere with understanding. | Most sentences are well constructed, but they lack variety and have limited vocabulary. The author makes frequent errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling that interfere with understanding. | Sentences sound awkward, are distractingly repetitive, or are difficult to understand. The author makes numerous errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling that interfere with understanding. |
| Reviewer's Comments/Concerns | *Please note any specific concerns you have about the essay content, for example concerning content about children or the profession. | | | |

Scale

14-16 → 3 points

11-13 → 2 points

8-10 → 1 point

4-7 → 0 points

Total Points (0-3)

Adapted from:

- readwritethink International Reading Association NCTE 2013
- Winston Salem State University EPP Admission Essay Rubric 2021