

Ed 300 research essay brainstorming exercise

Step 1: Anonymously write YOUR TOPIC below. Go to Insert > Horizontal Line to separate space.

Step 2: Go to ANYONE ELSE'S TOPIC, and try to re-state it as an [acceptable research question](#).

Example:

Topic: Historically Black Colleges and Universities (either student experiences or college reputation in regards to accreditation and what that means for the institutions)

Consider this: How have student experiences at HBCUs changed over time in contrast to colleges with a predominantly white student body, such as Trinity College?

Here's the topic: how has the education landscape in New Orleans changed since hurricane Katrina? Maybe consider something like: What factors caused the education landscape in New Orleans change since Hurricane Katrina?

Why do education reformers see the new education landscape that is in place (once you figure out what it is) as a viable option for the New Orleans school system?

- Also watch out that you don't duplicate what another Ed 300 student wrote about last year. [See Caroline Harris' essay from 2012](#)

Topic: comparing the actual policy and legislation of No Child Left Behind with Race to the Top as well as the reality of the implementation of these two different legislations and how they actually affect the public school system

This could potentially be too broad to focus on the entire country as both have had drastically different effects depending on the region. Potentially you could try to find two regions in the U.S. that implemented these legislations and the respective findings for each public school district. Maybe even compare the two by focusing on two case studies--one that implemented No Child Left Behind and one that implemented Race to the Top and which had better results and how that could potentially shape ed. reform in coming years.

Have the top 10 elementary teacher preparation programs (rated by [US News](#)) changed in the last decade to prepare teachers to handle students with behavioral or emotional needs? If so, how?

Consider something like this: How have teacher preparation programs changed to better prepare teachers to more specifically handle students with behavioral needs? It might be interesting to highlight some specific school districts that have prepared their teachers exceptionally well.

How has the implementation of charter high schools in Chicago affected graduation rates and standardized test scores from 1990 to present day

- Do you mean how it has affected graduation rates/test scores of charter school students, or all students in Chicago?

How has the implementation of charter high schools in Chicago affected graduation rates/test scores compared to traditional high schools in the Chicagoland area from 1990 to present day?

social climate and how it impacts education

- Maybe consider something like: How have changes in the social climate due to Sept 11th changed public schools in New York City? (This is a more specific idea than above).

What is going on with the race to elite preschools in New York City--admission tests, expensive tuition costs (i.e. \$30,000-\$40,000), parents allegedly suing pre-schools for "hurting their children's chances at a successful academic future"?

What factors of elite preschools in New York City have led to accusations from parents for hindering their children's academic futures?

implementation of need-blind college admissions

Maybe consider something like: How did the implementation of a needs-blind college admission process arise during the 2000's ?

How has the implementation of need-blind admissions affected (test scores, graduation rates, diversity, campus climate, etc- pick one or two) at (pick a college/university to focus on)?

Since the Obama administration took over office in 2008, what measures have they taken to reform education in America?

-This is very descriptive. Can you come up with a richer question that fits one of our models, such as historical causation or policy formation?

What policies has Obama about education that you would like to look at?

A question could be: How has (blank policy) affected teachers and students in (select area)?

Community Schools v. Traditional Schools

Montessori Schools

Single-sex education in Hartford

- Hartford previous had one or two schools that were given permission to experiment with single-sex grades (such as McDonough Elementary 6th grade, see Hartford Courant article from 2000s). It may be interesting to find out why this no longer happens, or why it happens in some other public schools more than here.

How has single-sex education been implemented into Hartford public schools...what were the benefits/drawbacks?

How did education in correctional facilities rise over time?

As commented to the side, I would narrow down a focus group within the correctional facility, either age group or gender. It might be possible to compare these groups as well. Additionally, you may want to narrow down your time frame to a shorter period rather than leaving it open.

Consider rephrasing this...what do you mean by rise? You might want to reword the question to ask how education in correctional facilities progressed.

How have different educators and policy makers adapted their strategies in order to best cater to non English speaking Latinos and illegal immigrants?

I would narrow down by time frame and geographical location.

How have policy makers in Connecticut adapted their reform strategies to accommodate for English language learners in Hartford district schools?

How has Trinity's mission statement changed since it's formation and are these changes reflective of changes within higher education as a whole?

How does the public high school dropout rate in urban cities compare to those in smaller/rural cities?

- Good start, but there's no "change or continuity over time" here. Try again.

-Maybe choose a specific city to compare to a specific rural town?

Has the dropout rate in smaller/rural cities increased or decreased as a result of NCLB (or some other kind of federal law)?

Topic: How effective has Hartford Public Schools been in implementing bilingual education/multicultural education? How was this affected, if at all, by No Child Left Behind?

It might be interesting to explore the issues relating to bilingual education that is in the Hartford Public Schools to see why there is a push for dual immersion programs. The extra credit assignment in a few weeks might be really helpful for helping your research.

How have the programs provided by the Harlem Children's Zone organization ultimately helped inner city families and students living in Harlem?

-When you say "helped" can you clarify what kind of help you mean? As in have test scores increased, more students graduated high school, less students become involved in drugs, etc? I think this is a great topic but perhaps by narrowing in on the way their lives have or have not improved you will find it more manageable.

Diversification of the educational workforce- How has diversifying teaching/administrative staff ultimately helped or hindered inner-city schools and its students?

In response to veronica's comment about looking into a specific city- I can look into focusing on New York City.

"American Teacher" provides great insight into this question with one of the teacher's testimonies (Mr. Dearman). Would you focus on public (charter, magnet, district) or private schools?

How have secondary school curricula in private schools in New York, NY changed over the past ten years to conform to college admissions standards?

This is a great question but I would suggest looking more into public schools because of the drastic changes that have occurred lately. You can look into both if so.

How has the implementation of women's athletics in high schools affected their educational experiences? When was this first allowed? How did policies like Title IX change the experiences of both girls and boys in high schools?

-Good research question. I like.

Topic: In films like American Promise, the exclusion of multicultural students in private schools is highlighted. What factors led to the creation of private school programs (like ABC or Prep for prep) for students of color? What are the benefits and disadvantages that have been seen from the creation of the programs in the 20th century to now?