

Issues and Innovations in Education

Assignment Overview

As teachers, we can play a significant role in the improvement of our schools and communities. This assignment asks you to think about one of the educational or social issues that might impact your students and think about how you might mitigate that impact in your role as a teacher.

Student Learning Outcomes

The assignment addresses the following student learning outcomes:

- analyze current educational research, equitable and inclusive instruction practices, and behavior management and guidance strategies to make appropriate decisions for instruction, assessment, homework, and classroom management policies.
- demonstrate awareness of current social forces and issues in education impacting public schools and the effect of these on children with diverse needs in order to effectively demonstrate cultural competency in relationships with students, families, and other teachers in an educational setting.
- identify and explain the diversity of the student population and how this diversity relates to issues in education as well as recognize and describe individual differences among students and identify strategies and accommodations used to address these differences.

Assignment Basics

In the first part of your paper, clearly define the issue. Include statistics, data, and specific, real-world examples. Also include the impacts your issue has on students, schools, and communities. Again, be specific. While this is an important part of your paper as it establishes the importance of the issue, it should only make up about 1/3 of your paper.

The rest of your paper should be focused on ways that ***schools and educators*** are addressing the issue you are discussing. Discuss programs, supports, and/or solutions that are successfully addressing this issue. This last part is the key - you need to choose an issue that you can do something about in your role as an educator. General social issues - like divorce - that we cannot directly influence as teachers aren't what this assignment is about.

Assignment Requirements

- At least 800 words in length (not counting header, title, or works cited)
- Typed, double-spaced, 12-point font that's easy to read
- Upload the assignment to Canvas by the due date

- Include at least two ***reputable*** sources
- Include in-text citations and a works cited page for sources

Due Dates

The Issues & Innovations Paper takes the place of a midterm and must be completed as part of earning an A in the course.

- Rough draft (for peer review): 9/25/25
- Final draft: 10/19/25