

Utah State University Graduate Credit

Assignments must be submitted (post marked) by October 17, 2008

Submit Two Assignments for Grading to:

Mail: Elementary CORE Academy
USU Credit
6517 Old Main Hill
Logan, UT 84322-6517

Homework will NOT be accepted via email due to the required student work.

Note: August 15, 2008 is the last day that you can add or drop the USU credit. Incomplete and subsequent failing grades will be assigned for coursework that is not submitted prior to October 17, 2008. This is a Fall 2008 class and grades will not be posted on transcripts until January 2009.

Assignment #1 (Required): Student Work Reflection

Overview: Select, plan, implement, collect student work, and reflect on one activity shared at the 2008 Elementary CORE Academy. Respond to the assignment instructions as you share the selected activity with students.

Assignment Instructions:

1. What activity was selected? (Include the Name, Content, Standard, and Objective)
2. What ILO will be targeted during the activity delivery? Why?
3. Respond in writing to the following questions as you prepare:
 - a. What key understandings and skills are you expecting your students to gain as a result of this activity?
 - b. What techniques (at least two) do you anticipate using to engage students in the activity?
 - c. What questions will you ask that might encourage the students to evaluate and consider their learning approach?
4. Provide two student work artifacts to include as part of the assignment: one piece that demonstrates understanding of the concept taught and one piece that shows incomplete understanding or a misconception. Please remove any identifying information about the student. (Note: Extra samples are not necessary.)
5. Respond to student work after implementation of the activity by answering the following questions:
 - a. What did the student work demonstrate regarding the understanding or misconceptions based on the evidence you collected? (Refer directly to your student samples.)
 - b. What questions did you use that effectively helped and encouraged students to reflect on individual understanding?
 - c. On the basis of existing understandings, what tasks will you pose next?

Note: Assignment #1 should be 3 double-spaced, 12-point font, typed pages. (Student pages are in addition to the 3-page limit.)

Select one of the following:

Assignment #2: Differentiation

Overview: Describe what it means for the students in your grade level to be successful learners. Discuss how differentiation improves teacher practice and student learning. Respond to the instructions for Assignment #2.

Assignment Instructions:

1. Share a brief explanation of what it means to differentiate instruction.
2. Describe how differentiation can improve teaching practice and student learning.
3. Share 2 or 3 insights learned at the CORE Academy relating to differentiation.
4. Provide a vignette / example from your classroom demonstrating an effective use of differentiation.

Note: Assignment #2 should be 3 double-spaced, 12-point font, typed pages.

Assignment #3: Self Needs Action Plan

Overview: Develop, implement, and evaluate a personal action plan to improve your professional practice. Provide a written response to the instructions for Assignment #3.

Assignment Instructions:

1. Provide a brief written overview of your personal professional action plan including your goals and objectives for the activities. Initiate your plan and document your activities, which may include measures for student progress.
2. Demonstrate how your professional action plan modified or improved your practice.
3. Submission should demonstrate engagement of over 7 hours beyond CORE Academy attendance.
4. The description should also include an evaluation of the action plan that indicates value, and learning that occurred.

Ideas for Action plans:

- Choose a topic you are interested in learning about (journaling, reading and writing in math, inquiry etc.) Complete research on the topic and demonstrate how this new learning will be used in your classroom.
- Identify a classroom practice or system that will impact student learning. Describe how you included this new practice into your teaching repertoire using the assigned questions.

Note: Assignment #3 should be 3 double-spaced, 12-point font, typed pages.