



S.C.O.P.E.

COLLEGE of EDUCATION

Assignment 1: Topics in Education Journal.

Due Date: The First Day of Class

What Do I Do?

For this assignment, you will need to follow the news in newspapers (print or online), educational blogs, Twitter feeds, Facebook Groups, magazines, or television for one week. You may also find the radio National Public Radio (NPR) a useful source of information. You will benefit from spending time in private reflection on news topics in education that are meaningful and of interest to you. Be sure to choose a topic that you find enjoyable and stimulating, as you will be working on this project over duration of the course.

- **First, consider your own experiences in schools.** What problems do you see every day? What challenges do your peers, teachers, or principal face? What are your concerns in education? What issues of discrimination, inequality, or injustice do you or others face in regards to your schooling? You will not need to turn these in, rather, *think and write about them.*
- **For 7 days, complete the “Topics In Education” journal of one news story about the current problems in education.** Include in your journal where you heard the information, a brief description of the problem and key points raised by your source. You will find the “Topics in Education Journal” outline in this packet. If you read a newspaper article, cut out the article and place it in a folder and bring it with you on the first day of class. If you read something online, print out a copy.
- **After one week of doing this, choose one topic that compels you the most.** Expect to talk about one issue you consider the most important and explain to me why you wish to research this topic. We will discuss your articles on the first day of class.

Where can I find topics for my journal?

Newspapers:

There are plenty of newspapers in the local Philadelphia area to begin your search. These include: *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Philadelphia Daily News*, *Al Dia*, *Philadelphia Tribune*, and *The City Paper*.

If you are coming from the Boston area, *The Boston Globe* and *Boston Herald* are great bets. Boston has fantastic online newspaper sources, such as *Boston.com* and *MassLive.com*. Feel free to access newspapers and educational stories from a variety of these information sources.

Of course, many papers have online platforms that you can investigate.



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Education Websites:

Some websites are dedicated *only* to educational issues. These are great places to get the feel of the state of education today.

- *Ed Week* -- <http://www.edweek.org/ew/index.html> - “Weekly news on American **education** issues. Searchable archives.”
- *New York Times* education section - <http://www.nytimes.com/pages/education/index.html> - “Find breaking news & **education news** on colleges & universities, teachers, public & private schools, tuition, scholarships, financial aid & student loans.”
- *NPR Education* - <http://www.npr.org/sections/education/> --“ **NPR news** and commentary on **education**, schools, colleges and universities, and emerging trends in learning”

Twitter:

One of the easiest ways to get started is to follow one of the following Twitter feeds. This way, news will come to you instead of the other way around. A few handles to possibly follow:

- @EdVoices—“One-stop shop for educational blogs.”
- @PhillyEducation—“The official twitter of the School District of Philadelphia.”
- @BostonSchools—“The nation’s first public schools.”
- @EdReformPR – “Near as I can tell, all education problems r nails. Fortunately, I've got a hammer.”
- @DianeRavitch – “ I write about education. I blog at dianeravitch.net.”
- @WeAreTeachers—“Online community of teachers of all types. Teacher social network.”
- @usedgov – “News and information from the US Department of Education”
- @Edweek – “American education’s newspaper and website of record.”

Blogs:

Educational bloggers are often at the heartbeat of current educational issues. They can capture personal stories in a way that mainstream news outlets often do not and cannot.

- Failing Schools: <http://failingschools.wordpress.com>
- An Urban Teacher’s Education: <http://www.anurbanteacherseducation.com>
- The independent voice for the Philadelphia Public Schools: <http://thenotebook.org>
- A Phillie Teacher: <http://aphillieteacher.wordpress.com>

I have included a “Topics in Education Journal” for you in this packet. Use this to record your news stories. Please bring your news journals and the newspaper articles (if you use this as a source) when you arrive on the first day of class. If you have any immediate questions, please contact me at rik5127@psu.edu.



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“Topics in Education” Journal

Day One

Name of article, news segment, or radio broadcast:

Date of article, news, or radio broadcast: ____/____/____

In the space below, write a brief summary and the key points of your source.

Day Two

Name of article, news segment, or radio broadcast:

Date of article, news or radio broadcast: ____/____/____

In the space below, write a brief summary and the key points of your source.



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Day Three

Name of article, news segment or radio broadcast:

Date of article, news or radio broadcast: ____/____/____

In the space below, write a brief summary and the key points of your source.

Day Four

Name of article, news segment or radio broadcast:

Date of article, news or radio broadcast: ____/____/____

In the space below, write a brief summary and the key points of your source.



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Day Seven

Name of article, news segment or radio broadcast:

Date of article, news or radio broadcast: ____/____/____

In the space below, write a brief summary and the key points of your source.

After you have completed your seven-day journal, answer the following questions.

Which topic in education appeals to you the most?

Why is research in this area of education important?

What sources can you find out more about your topic?