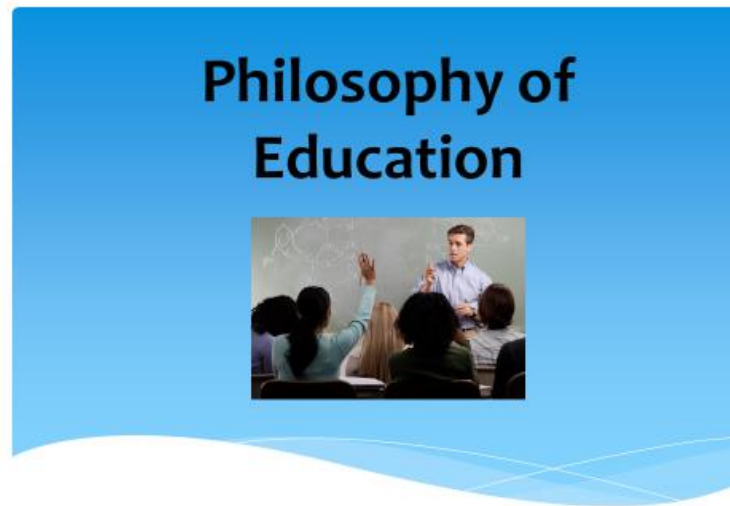


Presentation Notes Philosophy of Education

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Presentation Notes

Philosophy of Education

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Presentation Notes

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**List everything
you believe to be
true about
education**



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Within groups, have students discuss what they believe to be true about education. As they talk to their group members, have them highlight the three to five items that they think will most influence them as teachers. While students are grouped together, have students pick one person to be the recorder or scribe and one reporter or presenter for each group.

After students have discussed what they believe about education and teaching, have students discuss their personal beliefs about education and what this might mean in terms of how they will teach. During this discussion, the recorder should take notes while participating in the discussion.

Ask the following questions:

- How did you come to believe what you do about education?
- How will your beliefs about education influence the kind of teacher you will become?


Additionally, students need to understand that, while their values and principles may be static, their written philosophies may be dynamic documents that are likely to change as they gain additional educational experience.

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My Philosophy of Education



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What influence do you think your culture has on your system of beliefs and values? Your system of beliefs and your educational philosophy will influence your teaching. As you become more aware of your beliefs about education, you will be better able to make conscientious decisions about your teaching. Your values and principles may be static (unchanging), but your philosophy is probably more dynamic - evolving as you gain more experience in the classroom. A philosophy might be more simply defined as a system of beliefs.


Presentation Notes

Philosophy of Education

Slide 5

Philosophy and Its Meaning

The word **philosophy** comes from the Greek words **philo**, meaning *love*, and **sophos**, meaning *wisdom*. It is a love of wisdom.



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Philosophy is derived from the Greek words **philo**, meaning love, and **sophos**, meaning wisdom. Together, the two Greek words give meaning to the word philosophy to define it as a love of wisdom.

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Philosophy of Education

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Field of Philosophy

We will consider:

- * Four **branches** of philosophy relative to teaching
- * Five **philosophies** of education



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As you write your philosophy of education, it is important to gain an understanding of the field of philosophy and its importance in education. We will discuss the four branches of philosophy relative to teaching and five philosophies of education.


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Four branches of philosophy:

- Axiology
- Epistemology
- Logic
- Metaphysics



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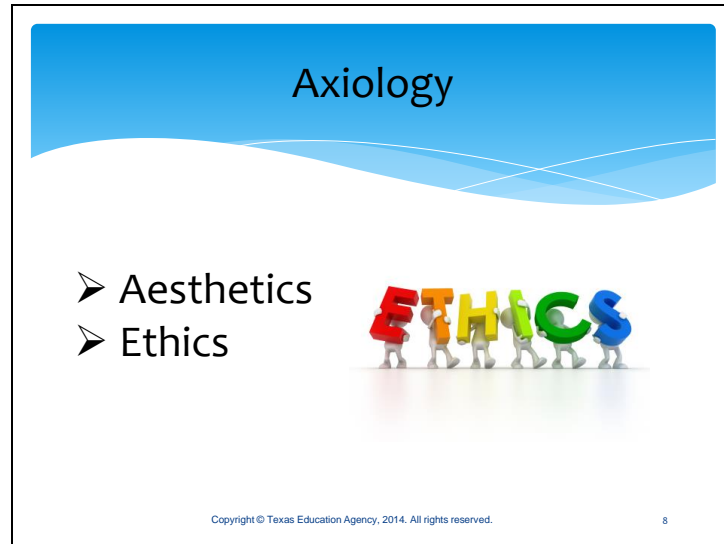
7

Although there are several branches of philosophy, for our discussion of educational philosophies, we will focus on axiology, epistemology, logic and metaphysics.

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Philosophy of Education

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What is more important to you – your friends and family or your things? Is it stealing if you take something that no one else wanted? Would you run a stop sign if no one was looking? What about a stop light? These questions speak to your core system of values – what you believe to be right and wrong, also known as ethics.

What is beauty? What do you consider to be beautiful? Aesthetics are things of beauty or that are pleasing to the eye.

Axiology is the branch of philosophy that considers aesthetics and ethics.

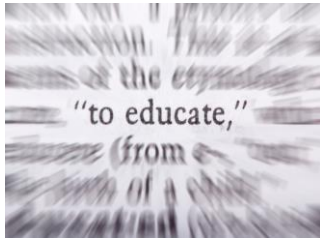
Presentation Notes

Philosophy of Education

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Epistemology

- Theories of knowledge
- Knowing the limits or validity of knowing



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Why do we, as a human race, know more than we did a hundred years ago? Why do we not have a better understanding of how the brain works? Or, since we have learned so much about the brain, why can't we be smarter? Will there be a time when we will know everything that there is to know, and the human mind can't learn anything else? Will our brains explode if we think about it too much?

Epistemology begs to answer these questions and more. It is a branch of philosophy that investigates the origin, nature, methods and limits of human knowledge.


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Logic

- Reasoning
- Increases with each stage of cognitive development



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Does logical thought inhibit or enhance creativity? How much is $2 + 2$? How did you know that? Don't say that you just did, because you did not know it on the day that you were born. Logic is the branch of philosophy that considers reasoning to arrive at legitimate conclusions. It includes mathematical logic. Logic is responsible for all reasoning. We are taught logic early in life. Think back to the psychologist Jean Piaget who we discussed earlier in the year. You may recall that he observed that our ability to think logically – to reason – increases with each stage of cognitive development.

Do you think Piaget was a philosopher of the branch of logic? Why?


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Metaphysics

- *Meta ta physika*
- Basic causes and nature of things



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Have you ever wondered what is on the edge of the universe? Metaphysics is derived from the Greek *meta ta physika*, meaning *after the things of nature*. It is the branch of philosophy that strives to explain the basic causes and nature of things.

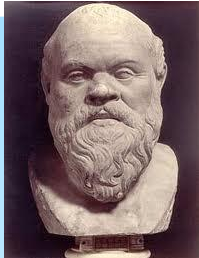
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Philosophy of Education

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Socrates

Socrates did not tell his students what to think – instead he forced them to challenge their own thinking and to develop their logical thinking skills and understanding.



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Socrates (469 BCE–399 BCE) did not tell his students what to think – instead he forced them to challenge their own thinking and to develop their logical thinking skills and understanding. He did this with a systematic series of questions. According to his student Plato, Socrates did not give his students answers to their questions, but instead responded to their answers with another question. This method of questioning is known as the Socratic or dialectic (an argument between two opposing sides) method.

How does this relate to teaching?

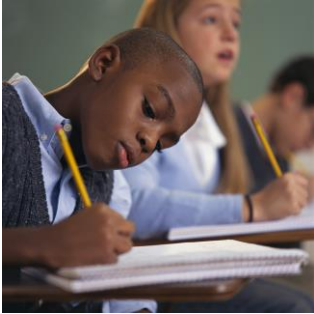
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Philosophy of Education

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Philosophies of Education

- Essentialism
- Existentialism
- Perennialism
- Progressivism
- Social Reconstructionism



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Most texts and references note five important or accepted philosophies of education – essentialism, existentialism, perennialism, progressivism and social reconstructionism.

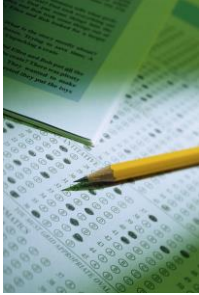
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Essentialism

- Academic tests
- Basic skills and knowledge



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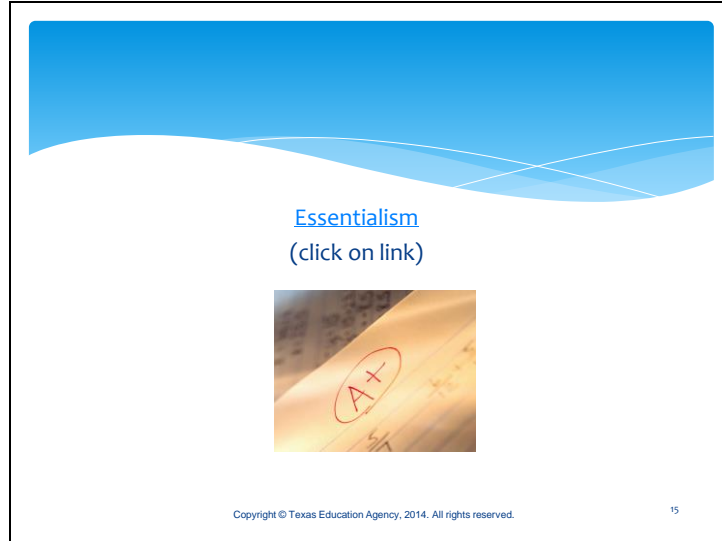
14

Essentialism is the basis of the core curriculum philosophy. It means to teach what is essential to know. Subscribers to the essentialism philosophy believe that students should be taught the core essential curriculum of reading, mathematics, literature, history, science and foreign language. Subscribers to this philosophy do not believe in vocational training, such as co-op, work program or student internships. Instead, they focus on teaching to the state academic tests.

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Essentialism - Ed 312 Project

An informative video on the concept of essentialism in the classroom.

<http://youtu.be/n5l9yZlkugw>


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Existentialism

- Free will
- Personal responsibility

A cartoon illustration of a person with blonde hair, wearing a brown jacket and green pants, holding a globe of the Earth. The person is looking down at the globe with a thoughtful expression. The globe shows green continents and blue oceans.

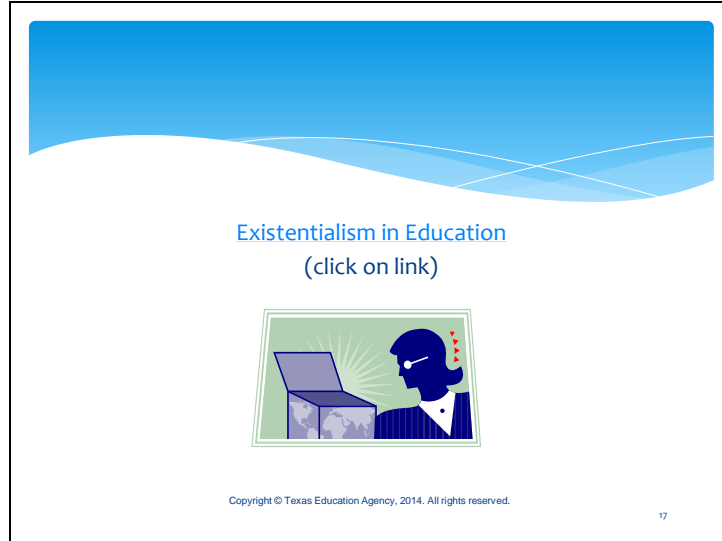
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Existentialism philosophers believe in free will, choice and personal responsibility. Educators who subscribe to this theory give situations to students that encourage students to develop their own ideas, choose for themselves and assume personal responsibility for those choices.

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Existentialism in Education

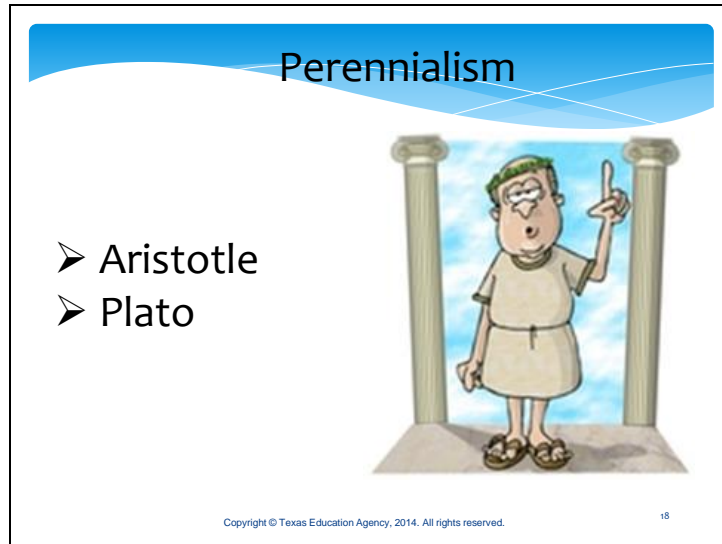
Philosophy video project on existentialism and its educational implications.

<http://youtu.be/5OHTrQLmSoE>

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Philosophy of Education

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Perennialism educators subscribe to Aristotle and Plato's belief system that education should be everlasting information given to the students to stimulate thought provoking-discussions. Educators teach principals and not facts.

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Perennialism

This video describes the educational philosophy of perennialism.

http://youtu.be/AZ_Nu20YBvI

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Progressivism

Education which moves the students forward and is relevant to the world today and in the future



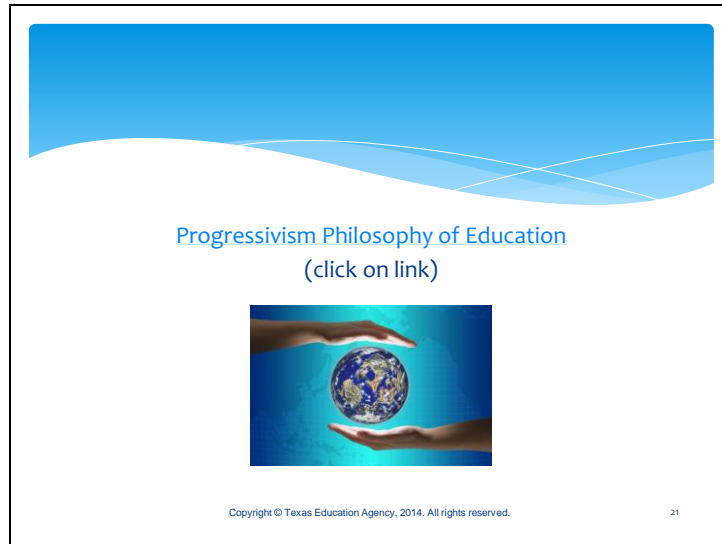
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Progressivism: Do you think education should move the students forward and be relevant to the world today and in the future? If so, you might be a progressivist. If this is your thinking then you will consider your students' needs, interest and experiences to make your lessons relevant.

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Teacher note: The video is about nine minutes long.

Progressivism in Education

Progressivism teaching philosophy in education.

<http://youtu.be/jDzgsdS3lgQ>

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Social Reconstructionism

- Social issues
- Seek change



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Reconstructionists believe that education should give immediate attention to social problems and seek change within society. Educators therefore give students real-world problems and ask students to solve the problems.

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Social Reconstruction
(click on link)



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Teacher note: The video is about seven minutes long.

Social Reconstruction

The education philosophy of social reconstruction.

<http://youtu.be/i0IKL2TIYew>

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Philosophy of Education

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Break The Mold

Your philosophy of education:

- Eclectic
- Reflective
- Special
- Unique



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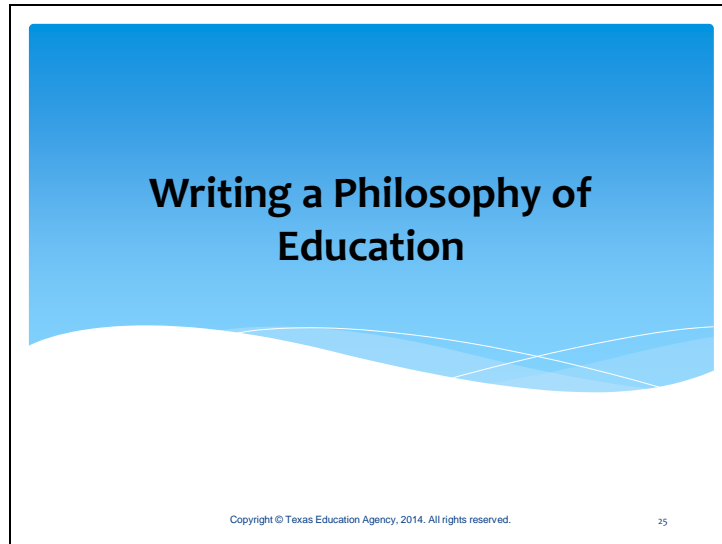
Let's say none of the established philosophies exactly fit your beliefs. Have you ever changed a recipe or a pattern and made it your own? Your philosophy of education is your personal statement about what you believe to be true and important. It isn't reasonable to think that you would fit exactly into a pre-constructed (prefab) philosophy.

What does eclectic mean? Eclectic describes a person who derives ideas, style or taste from a broad and diverse range of sources.

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To prepare a philosophy of education, you should read a wide variety of information, including historical perspectives and contemporary issues and trends. You need to reflect about your past experiences, successes and obstacles. You should talk with other teachers and students to obtain opinions and views. It helps to review notes and assignments from previous classes in Education and Training.


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Basic Concepts

- Attitudes
- Beliefs
- Values



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The first step in constructing a philosophy of education is to write down everything you know or believe to be true about teaching, the learning process and education. These thoughts and ideas will become the template for your philosophy of education.

Before actually writing the philosophy, it helps to make an outline or use a template. Be specific, and use quotes and examples as you explain your ideal vision of education.


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Organization

- Concise
- Examples
- Structured



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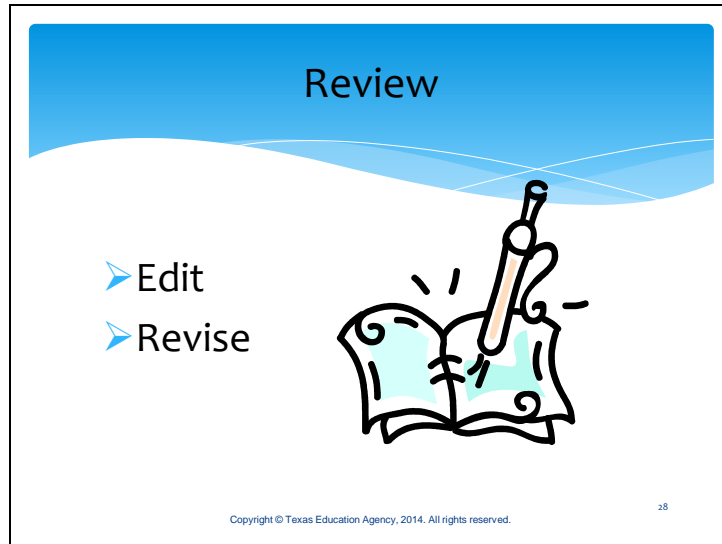
The next part of constructing your philosophy of education is to organize your thoughts into a concise and structured piece. Your thoughts and ideas should flow together with meaning, and each idea should connect to the next.

Throughout your paper, include specific, concrete examples to which the reader can connect as he or she reads your philosophy. This will help draw in the reader and give him or her a connection to you, the writer.

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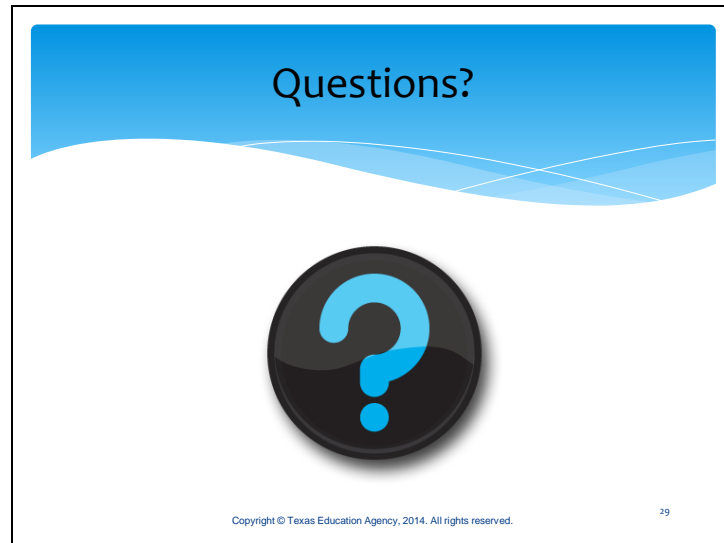
When you prepare the draft, you need to include a thesis statement and use correct grammar and spelling. Perhaps one of the most essential steps in creating a philosophy is to review your work upon completion of the draft. You may be great at grammar and terrific in English class, but even the best students need to revise and edit their work before calling it a final draft. Even a final draft sometimes may need editing. It is usually a good idea to let a friend or teacher review your philosophy as well. They may see something in your writing you did not see before that may need to be revised before submitting it to a potential employer. Ask that your reviewer check over your work to ensure it has purpose and focus and that your beliefs are strong throughout the written work. If you plan to become an educator, your writing should reflect that you are an educated person. It is a work in progress that will change as you gain more experience with education and teaching.

You should begin your philosophy of education early in the year so you can adjust and revise it as you participate in your intern experiences. The completed philosophy should be an important part of your portfolio and senior presentation. This is an excellent time for you to incorporate technology by creating a video for YouTube™, blog or other innovative expression of your philosophy.

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References and Resources

Images:

- Microsoft Clip Art: Used with permission from Microsoft.

Books:

- Early Childhood Education Today, Twelfth Edition by George S. Morrison
This book is a great resource on early childhood education. It covers the foundation of education, programs and resources for children and families, educational needs of infants through the primary grades and the special needs of children and families.
- Introduction to Teaching: Becoming a Professional. Fifth Edition by Don Kauchak & Paul Eggen
For any student going into the teaching profession, this is an excellent choice. It is an easy read for students on all levels. It covers the changing teaching profession, the foundations of education and how to become an effective teacher.
- Touch the Future: Teach! by Carlos Diaz, Carol Pelletier and Eugene Provenzo, Jr.
In this book, students are asked to reflect on their own culture and how it has helped them to develop their ideals of teaching. The authors ask students to reflect on their own belief systems as they prepare to become future educators.

Websites:

- Philosophical Foundations of U.S. Education
Although this is a college text book, it is an excellent resource for students. It includes an inventory and scoring guide for students to determine to which philosophy of education they are most aligned.
http://www.pearsonhighered.com/assets/hip/us/hip_us_pearsonhighered/samplechapter/013610135_6.pdf

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References and Resources

- Socratic Questions
Socrates believed that the best educators asked questions, and lots of them. The Socratic Questioning method is widely used throughout education. The site features the six types of questions that Socrates asked his students.
http://changingminds.org/techniques/questioning/socratic_questions.htm
- What is Your Philosophy of Education?
McGraw-Hill Publishers created an online inventory for students that will direct them to one of five types of educational philosophies, Essentialism, Perennialism, Progressivism, Social Reconstructionism or Existentialism, based on their responses.
<http://www1.umn.edu/ohr/teachlearn/tutorials/philosophy/index.html>

YouTube®:

- Essentialism – Ed 312 Project
An informative video on the concept of essentialism in the classroom.
<http://youtu.be/5g28uagx>
- Existentialism in Education
Philosophy video project on existentialism and its educational implications.
<http://youtu.be/5OHTQmSoE>
- Perennialism
This video describes the educational philosophy of perennialism.
http://youtu.be/AZ_Nu2oYBvI
- Progressivism in Education
Progressivism teaching philosophy in education.
<http://youtu.be/IDzgsdS1gQ>

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