



Education Specialist Program
Signature Assignment for EDSP 525
Persuasive Essay

Student Learning Outcome(s) Assessed:

SLO 5: Demonstrate an in- depth understanding of legal, moral, & ethical guidelines & perspectives in special education.

Description of the Signature Assignment

This assignment is intended to demonstrate your understanding of legal, moral, & ethical guidelines & perspectives in special education and related areas of disability. Your position paper will focus on a selected topic in the field of education of individuals with disabilities, presenting both sides of a debatable issue.

Directions for Students

1. Identify an issue that is debated in the disability rights movement related to educational systems, school reform, access to educational services, ethics, or other issues including an historical review of educational systems. If you choose an issue that is not directly related to education, be sure to connect it to adult transition programs or other element of education.
2. Clearly state the debate: What do the opposing sides believe or how do they respond to the issue you have selected? Use peer reviewed journals as well as other legitimate forms of media to explain the sides of the issue.
3. Choose one side of the issue and clearly state your position. Explain why you have selected this side and reiterate with resources others (individual or group) who represent the same side.
4. Briefly explain the opposing view and present individuals and/or groups who support it and why.
5. Use peer-reviewed literature and professional media sources to support your position. APA format is required.

Scoring Rubric

Component	4 Exceeds expectations	3 Meets expectations	2 Meets some expectations	1 Does not meet expectations	Points Earned	Points Possible
	10 9	8 7	6 5	4		
Selected issue of debate in education & related areas of disability	A single topic is clearly described as it relates to Part 1 above. The issue has two distinct sides to discuss.	A topic is selected that relates to an issue in special education but may not be clearly debatable.	A topic is selected that relates to special education/disability but it is not debatable.	A specific topic is not clearly presented.		10
	10 9	8 7	6 5	4		
Present both sides of the selected debatable issue	Extensive presentation of both sides of a clearly debatable issue. At least 3 articles from peer-reviewed journals have been used to support each side of the debate. Professional media sources may also have been used.	Both sides of the debate are clearly presented. One or two articles from journals have been used to support each side of the debate. Professional media sources may also have been used.	Presentation of both sides of an issue is not distinct or only one journal article has been used to support either side of the debate. Professional media sources may have been used.	It is not clear that there are two sides to the topic presented. Sources are not from professional journals or other professional sources.		10
	15 14 13	12 11	10 9 8	7		
State and support professional opinion	Extensive support is provided for the author's selected side of the debate. Opinion is clearly stated and supported by professionals and organizations in the field.	The author has chosen and described one side of the debate and provides support from professionals and/or organizations for their decision.	The author has chosen one side of the debate but does not use professionals or organizations to support their side of the debate.	It is not clear to the reader as to which side of the debate the author has selected to support.		15
	15 14 13	12 11	10 9 8	7		
State opposing view and provide support for it	Extensive support is provided for the opposing side of the debate. Opinion is clearly stated and supported by at least 2 professionals and 2 organizations in the field.	The opposing view is presented with the support of at least one professional and one organization in the field.	The opposing view is stated but the author does not provide professional support for the opposing view.	The opposing view is not clearly stated.		15
	10 9	8 7	6 5	4		
Use peer-reviewed, professional sources including media. Follow APA format	At least 3 peer-reviewed resources have been used to support each side of the debatable issue. APA format is used with negligible errors.	At least 2 peer-reviewed resources have been used to support each side of the debatable issue. APA format is used with minimal errors.	Only 1 peer-reviewed resource has been used to support one side of the debatable issue. APA format is used with noticeable errors.	Peer-reviewed resources have not been used. APA format is attempted but with numerous errors.		10

Total Score: _____ out of 60 SLO Score: _____

Scoring Legend

Total Points	College of Education Assessment Scale Equivalent
54 - 60	4 (Exceeds Expectations)
48 - 53	3 (Meets Expectations)
42 - 47	2 (Meets Some Expectations)
36 - 41	1 (Does Not Meet Expectations)
<36	0 (Can't Score)