THEORY AND PRACTICE RESEARCH PAPER- Description & Criteria

**What:**
In this paper, you will examine the rationale and theory that support practices and principles of the art of teaching. Your individual research paper should include various beliefs, methods, preparations, issues, and models that apply to your teaching. You should thoroughly cover the following aspects of teaching using theorists and educational references to support your ideas.

We recognize that your philosophy of education is evolving. However, readers of this paper should be able to envision your classroom, pedagogy, curriculum, and classroom management.

**Describe your:**

A. Evolving philosophy of education (your beliefs about children and learning, purposes of schooling, importance of democratic classroom, culturally responsive schooling)

B. Ideal classroom physical environment (floor plan, equipment, and materials to accommodate all students for either teacher- or student-centered activities)
   - Ideal psychological environment (expectations, rules, routines for activities and instruction, communications with students and parents, democracy, and diversity considerations)

C. Curriculum planning (explicit, implicit/hidden, extra, null)
   - Intended process for lesson planning (short and long term including attention to academic language)

D. Instructional choices (direct instruction, cooperative learning, problem-based learning, project method, discussion)

E. Assessment (formal, informal, formative, summative)

F. Classroom management plan (planned classroom procedures, monitoring, reinforcement, instructional considerations, consequences, etc.)

**Possible theorists for investigation of the assignment include:**
*Lee Canter *Rudolf Dreikurs *William Glasser *Thomas Gordon *Alfie Kohn
*Jacob Kounin *Jane Nelson *Curwin & Mendler *Sonia Nieto *Robert Marzano

**Possible theories/programs include:**
*Reinforcement Theory *Choice Theory *Multiple Intelligences *Culturally Responsive Teaching *Classroom Ecology
*Assertive Discipline *Logical Consequences *Love and Logic *Classroom Meeting *Caring Classroom *Discovery Learning *Social Learning Theory *Constructivism *Essentialism *Authentic Assessment *Backwards Design

**Paper requirements:**

- Follow APA style guidelines, including title of paper, headings/subheadings, citations, page numbers, and reference list.
- Use at least ten references from current educational journals or books – no more than two web-based references. Within these references, you should strive for a balance between classic articles and more recent scholarship.
- Length should be 15-20 typed pages, 12 pt. font, double-spaced.
- Instructors can stop assessing the paper after 8 errors and assign an “incomplete” for the assignment.
- Staple rubric to the last page of the paper.
**Why:**

Identifying theories and practices that best fit with your philosophy can increase your efficiency and effectiveness, especially during student teaching and the first years of your teaching career.

Reflective practitioners critically reflect on their theory and practice regularly in order to improve their teaching for all students.

This paper can serve as a foundation for a teaching philosophy for an interview portfolio and/or the Teacher Performance Assessment (TPA) you will be asked to complete in your student teaching semester.

In most schools today, changes to instruction, curriculum, assessment, or management must be grounded in research. This project provides research experience and helps you become familiar with the ideas that influence schools today.

This assessment addresses several standards in the Teacher Ed. Program (Instructional Strategies, Democratic Learning Environments, Assessment, and Reflective Practitioner). This common assessment is the primary indicator for the WB requirement.

*Students must receive a rating of “Proficient” or better on all common assessments. Students who do not achieve such rating their first attempt for any reason (content, grammar/mechanics, improper APA, etc.) are allowed ONE opportunity to remediate the assignment. Students who complete such steps will receive a rating of “Proficient” (“Distinguished” is no longer possible). Students who do not meet a “Proficient” rating on the second attempt will automatically receive a grade of zero on that assessment.*

**Suggestions:**

Utilize previous coursework and/or identify your basic philosophy of teaching; consider the areas of classroom management, instruction, curriculum, and assessment.

Begin with the Arends text; identify the theories that fit with your philosophy; double-check the “books for the professional” lists at the end of each chapter.

Create a list of theories and possible sources based on your reading of Arends.

Conduct some initial research. Begin with the sources Arends suggests. You should also do a UW Library search. Make sure your sources are strong; if possible, use sources written by the theorist himself/herself.

As you read, create a short summary of the work. Include interesting quotes that illustrate the theory. Be sure to include a full citation in your notes.

Organize your sources/notes into meaningful categories.

Plan your paper carefully; utilize brainstorming, webbing, outlining, etc. Identify holes so you can conduct additional research.

As you plan and begin to write, incorporate your own reflections and ideas for practice into your outline and drafts. Include examples or scenarios based on your interpretation of the theory and/or your experiences (in practicum, volunteering, as a student, etc.).

Complete a first draft and share it with peers in your program and/or your instructor. Consider chunking the draft up (first do a section on classroom management, share that with a friend, then write a section on instruction to share, etc.).

Revise your complete draft. Pay close attention to overall organization, incorporation of research, and your analysis and synthesis of the theory and practice.

Edit your draft. Focus on grammar and APA format (the list of references, too!).