

Life writing

We ask that you do a life writing to address your personal and social views of why you want to teach.

Explore some of your life history that addresses one or more of the following themes.

- Describe how/why you came to your decision to become a teacher and the dreams and aspirations that led you to this pathway.
- Were there specific learning experiences with particular educators that inspired you?
- Given your own experiences with school, how did school feel, how did you best learn and what sort of experiences helped you and others feel most valued and included, or most disconnected and excluded?
- After writing this, return to it and connect it to one or more of the theoretical ideas and concepts from chapters 1-3 that is appropriate to illustrate the theme(s) that emerge from your story.

You will be evaluated on the basis of your ability to:

1) Vividly and insightfully connect to life experience(s) that identify significant and robust reasons why you wish to teach. Fewer key ideas well developed is better than many ideas superficially developed.

2) Link these significant reason(s) critically and creatively to major ideas in readings in ways that show depth and breadth of understanding about why you want to teach. One or two main conceptual ideas from the text that are deeply connected to your experiences and developed are better than naming many examples of theories/concepts.

3) Write clearly and thoughtfully about this key idea in ways that show thoughtful understanding. Writing with a personal style that expresses first person narrative and develops specific points with solid use of examples, metaphor, description, free from grammatical errors, is better than impersonal, general, abstract, grammatically weak writing.