

## **CI 406 JOURNAL GUIDELINES**

The purpose of writing weekly journals is to give you an opportunity to use your powers of observation and reflection as you describe what you are learning in the field—to think through an issue of concern that emerges as you become engaged in helping children learn. Your journal writing will become valuable to you if you keep the following in mind:

1. The most effective way to teach each grade level and subject is a much-debated issue. As beginning teachers, you are entering a dialog with those seeking the best ways to teach. The significant issues in education are answered by questioning the values of teachers, students, parents, administrators—all those concerned with education—particularly ourselves. These papers are a way of adding your voice to the discussion, as well as a way of building your personal philosophy of teaching.
2. A journal consists of both observations and reflections. It should tell the reader (1) what you are seeing, and (2) how you might respond to the situation. Journal about issues you find to be relevant and meaningful to your growth. As you progress in the teacher education program, it is natural to question educational practices and beliefs. Let your journals document and reflect your changing philosophies.
3. Journals may be used to reflect on topics of concern that you do not feel free to discuss in your classes or at your field site. This is an academic paper and the topic of each journal should be dealt with in a professional manner. If you are uncertain whether a topic is appropriate, contact your supervisor before submission.

### **Grading**

*To receive full credit for this assignment, your journal should include the following:*

1. Name, date, and journal number on the first page.
2. In the first paragraph, describe the topic of the paper. (What is the issue that will be discussed?) Try to limit your discussion to one issue. Because the paper is short, more than one issue will probably not be probed in sufficient detail. Provide an explanation of why you chose this topic.
3. Add something new to the discussion. Be careful not to just say, “I agree with my cooperating teacher (or a particular author)”. Your responsibility is a *response-ability*.
4. Write a complete 1 1/2 page paper. (double-spaced, Times New Roman Font, size 12 type).
5. Up to 2 points may be deducted from each journal for grammar and spelling errors.