



COUNCIL ON TEACHER EDUCATION

Writing Sample

We are interested in learning about you and why you chose to pursue a career in teaching. Please read and respond carefully to the following prompt:

In a double-spaced statement of 750-1000 words, describe why you want to become a teacher, your experience working with youth, your interest in the specific discipline in which you wish to teach, and what your philosophy of education is (what you think and believe about the nature of teaching and learning).

We will evaluate your essay with the following criteria in mind:

- Focus – the clarity with which the response presents and maintains the main idea.
- Support/Elaboration – the extent to which the main idea is supported and explained by details and reasons.
- Organization – the explicitness of the text structure or plan and the clarity of the logical flow of ideas.
- Grammar and Conventions – the extent to which the response shows control of the use of standard written English and the extent to which errors interfere with communication of the main idea.
- Appropriateness – the match between your goals, interests, and the specific program for which you are applying.

Hints to guide the writing process:

Those who will be evaluating your essay view writing as a *process*. That means that we believe a first draft of any piece of writing is almost never the best it can be. Therefore, we expect that you will go through two or three drafts of your essay, each time clarifying your thinking and ultimately turning in a final essay that represents what you really want to say in the best way you can say it.