

## Reflective Writing Expectations

### Secondary Student Teaching Requirement for Documentation Notebook

Fall, 2008

**Expectation 1:** Weekly reflective writing submitted to your university supervisor by a date and time determined by your supervisor. These are to be submitted to the supervisor, according to the supervisor's directions (email with attachment or uploaded to Blackboard). Keep a copy in your notebook. No handwritten entries.

**Expectation 2:** The weekly reflections should address the assigned topics:

**Week 1:** Who are the students in your classes? What are your first impressions? Explain how you learned about each student (survey or interview). What surprised you about them? How are your classes different from each other?

**Week 2:** Submit your instructional planning guide with an explanation of your choices. Why choices did you make about what to include and why? If you chose one of the templates provided as an example, why? What do you believe will be your greatest challenge in planning effective lessons? What seems easier for you?

**Week 3:** Describe an incident you observed between two students in one of your classes. Provide enough detail so that the context of the incident is clear. Provide relevant information regarding the *who, what, where, when, and why (if you know it)*. Then reflect on what you learned about each student from observing this incident.

**Week 4:** Describe a dilemma you faced this week. It could be related to planning, classroom environment, relationships with students, relationships with colleagues, instruction, etc. Explain why this was a dilemma for you.

**Week 5:** Describe a success you had this week. What happened and why was it such a success?

**Week 6:** Write a reflection in which you do a self-analysis of your content knowledge for teaching. What have you felt the strongest in teaching? The weakest? What areas of knowledge do you believe you will need to work on as you enter the profession?

**Week 7:** Describe an encounter with a parent (telephone or conference). Who initiated it? Was it positive or negative? Reflect on what you need to understand about parents/families' needs for information regarding their children.

**Week 8:** In what ways have you been successful during this first placement (you can focus on goals set from midterm and/or select other focus areas)? What do you consider work areas for the second placement? Write two goals for yourself for the second placement.