



# EDU 6307: Final Project Guidelines and Grading Guide

## Overview

The final project for this course will be to research and write a **Final Essay**.

As current or future practicing teachers or education administrators who will be working with professionals and community members who may share differing points of view, it will be critical for you to be able to analyze contemporary education issues from various perspectives and to be able to share positions with colleagues, parents or other administrators.

For your final essay in this course, you will demonstrate your ability to do this by writing a paper analyzing an important issue in education and assessing the pros and cons of at least two sides of the issue. This final essay will also provide practice experience with the kind of synthesis of research around issues that is required for the master's program comprehensive exam.

The project is supported by **three milestones**, which will be submitted at various points throughout the course to scaffold learning and ensure quality final submissions. These milestones will be submitted in **Modules 1, 2, and 4**.

**In this assignment you will demonstrate your mastery of the following course outcomes:**

- Develop original, innovative, research-based conclusions about existing scholarship related to the field of contemporary education
- Apply critical thinking skills to research projects on specific contemporary issues in education at national, state, and local levels
- Evaluate various proposals for possible solutions to problems related to educational issues
- Assess resources from current professional literature on contemporary issues or trends in the field of education for authoritativeness, intended audience, and quality
- Prepare for the Master of Education program comprehensive examination by synthesizing and applying principles, theories, and new knowledge related to contemporary issues in education

## Prompt



Specifically, your final essay must include the following elements:

- Frame the issue you have selected to research, briefly summarizing any critical background information behind the issue
- Synthesize the opposing arguments surrounding the issue
- Conclude with a paragraph sharing your personal thoughts and views on the issue and explaining how you will apply what you have learned about this topic or issue to your own classroom or school
- Support your research with references cited in APA format

## Milestones

### Milestone One: Mini Report Topic Selection

In **Module 1**, you will identify your topic for the mini report assignment and briefly summarize the major arguments of opposing sides of the argument around the topic. **This Milestone is graded with the Milestone 1 Rubric.**

### Milestone Two: Draft of Mini Report and List of Two Annotated Resources

In **Module 2**, you will prepare and submit a draft of your PowerPoint slides (5 max) for the mini report presentation on a current issue related to education as presented in the news and/or other public media. You will also submit a list of two annotated resources on your topic. **This Milestone is graded with the Milestone 2 Rubric.**

### Milestone Three: Continuing to Think Critically about Issues in Education

In **Module 4**, you will identify the issue in education that you have selected to analyze for your final essay and briefly explain the issue and describe three main points for each side of the issue. **This Milestone is graded with the Milestone 3 Rubric.**

### Final Submission:

In **Module 7**, you will submit your Final Essay. It should be a complete, polished artifact containing **all** of the critical elements of the final product. It should reflect the incorporation of feedback gained throughout the course. This milestone will be graded using the Final Project Rubric.

## Deliverable Milestones

| Milestone | Deliverables | Module Due | Grading |
|-----------|--------------|------------|---------|
|-----------|--------------|------------|---------|



|   |                                                          |       |                                         |
|---|----------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1 | Mini Report Topic Selection                              | One   | Graded separately; Module 1 Rubric      |
| 2 | Draft of Mini Report and List of Two Annotated Resources | Two   | Graded separately; Module 2 Rubric      |
| 3 | Continuing to Think Critically about Issues in Education | Four  | Graded separately; Module 3 Rubric      |
|   | Final Product: Final Essay                               | Seven | Graded separately; Final Project Rubric |

## Rubric

**Requirements of Submission:** Your final essay should be submitted as a Microsoft Word document, 2.5 pages in length, double-spaced, using a 12-point font and one-inch margins. All references must be formatted in APA style.

**Instructor Feedback:** Students can find their feedback in the Grade Center.

| Critical Elements                | Exemplary (100%)                                                                                                                                                           | Proficient (85%)                                                                            | Needs Improvement (55%)                                                                                                                                | Not Evident (0%)                                                  | Value |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| <b>Introduction to the Issue</b> | Demonstrates a sophisticated knowledge of contemporary issues in education by framing the issue, briefly summarizing any critical background information behind the issue. | Frames the issue, briefly summarizing any critical background information behind the issue. | Frames the issue, briefly summarizing any critical background information behind the issue, but may lack in detail or clarity or contain inaccuracies. | Does not frame the issue.                                         | 20    |
| <b>Opposing Arguments</b>        | Demonstrates a sophisticated knowledge of contemporary issues in education through the synthesis of the opposing arguments surrounding the issue.                          | Synthesizes the opposing arguments surrounding the issue.                                   | Synthesizes the opposing arguments surrounding the issue, but may lack in detail or clarity or contain inaccuracies.                                   | Does not synthesize the opposing arguments surrounding the issue. | 30    |



# Texas Wesleyan

UNIVERSITY

|                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                      |                           |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Personal Thoughts</b>        | Demonstrates a sophisticated knowledge of contemporary issues in education by sharing personal thoughts and views on the issue and explaining how what was learned about this topic or issue can be applied in the classroom or school. | Concludes with a paragraph sharing personal thoughts and views on the issue and explaining how what was learned about this topic or issue can be applied in the classroom or school. | Concludes with a paragraph sharing personal thoughts and views on the issue and explaining how what was learned about this topic or issue can be applied in the classroom or school, but may lack in detail or clarity. | Does not share personal thoughts and views on the issue or explain the topic or issue can be applied in the classroom or school.     | 30                        |
| <b>References</b>               | Supports research with references cited in APA format.                                                                                                                                                                                  | Supports research with references cited in APA format, but makes some mistakes in formatting.                                                                                        | Supports research with references not cited in APA format.                                                                                                                                                              | Does not support research with references.                                                                                           | 10                        |
| <b>Articulation of Response</b> | Submission is free of errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, and organization and is presented in a professional and easy to read format.                                                                              | Submission has no major errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization.                                                                                     | Submission has major errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization that negatively impact readability and articulation of main ideas.                                                         | Submission has critical errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization that prevent understanding of ideas. | 10                        |
| <b>Comments</b>                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                      | <b>Earned Total 100 %</b> |