Theoretical Understanding: Student Learning Objective 2

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SED 697

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THEORETICAL UNDERSTANDING by reading, synthesizing, and evaluating educational theory and research in their field and applying research findings to their practice in diverse classroom settings.

Assignment

In SED 600, one of the assignments was to research for journals articles that pertained to science education. One of the topics was about constructivist methods for the teaching of science. The assignment required a brief summary, an analysis of the research, and a reflection on how useful the article is to education. The current event demonstrated our ability to search through well-respected journals, critique and analyze the articles. This assignment had us evaluate the research conducted in the article and reflect on how the article was useful to the educational field.

Connection between Assignment and SLO

Current event assignments allowed me to grow as a reader. Reading research articles is very different from reading newspaper articles. It improved my ability to read through dense, theoretical, and research articles. Reading the articles made me comfortable with how articles were organized and taught me how to approach research articles. Once I understood the organization, reading the articles made more sense. It enabled me to synthesize the content of the article.

The quality of research varied from one article to the next. It allowed me to be critical of the research and evaluate its usefulness in the classroom. Seeing the variety opened my eyes to good and bad research. The different articles taught me how to approach research not just as a reader but also as a researcher myself. The different approaches and techniques were useful in
planning for my own research.

*What you learned and how it will influence your teaching*

Current events taught me to be patient. There are tons of articles published and it does not mean that all are necessarily good and worthwhile. This assignment changed how to analyze articles. It made me realize that you cannot take research just at face value. I must be able to critically look at research and see if it is valuable for the classroom and for the education field.

The articles provided a wealth of knowledge and experience. After only having three years of teaching, being able to read what has worked and not worked in other classrooms enables me to think about my own teaching. It pushes to me to improve my pedagogy by taking risks in the classroom. The research reminds me to try to techniques in the classroom.

Research article reminds me that I am not the only teacher to face the issues I encounter in my classroom. Having access to the well-respected journals allows me to read a variety of opinions, and not just biased articles found in popular media (television, newspaper, etc.). The articles allow me to connect theory with the classroom and the school. The research articles will keep me current with the education field.