

## TIPS FOR WRITING AN ESSAY FOR THE TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM

### PLAN YOUR WRITING

It will take some of the butterflies out of the equation if you know how you will tackle the essay in the writing session. You have your prompts in advance; use that advantage to plan and practice writing your essay beforehand. During this planning stage you can take the time to clarify your understanding of and opinion about the topics you will address in your essay and organize your thoughts logically. You can even take your practice essay to the Writing Studio (ES 212, 587-7421) and work out the bugs!

### WRITE ABOUT WHAT YOU KNOW

Choose topics that you are familiar with and can clearly articulate.

### STICK TO THE TOPIC

It is appropriate to show you are knowledgeable and talk about your experiences. However, make sure each sentence supports your topic and responds to the prompt.

### STRATEGIZE YOUR GAME PLAN

Use the first few minutes of your assessment time to arrange your thoughts in an outline or graphic organizer. This brief effort will enable you to plan smoother transitions as you move from introduction through conclusion and from topic to topic.

### USE YOUR DICTIONARY OR THESAURUS

Don't guess about the spelling or meaning of words: look them up. Utilize a thesaurus to avoid the overuse of words.

### USE ACADEMIC LANGUAGE

This writing assessment is used to determine your readiness to take on more difficult course work in which the demand for academic writing will increase. Avoid slang and colloquial expressions. Since the essay should not directly address the reader, do not use the word "you."

### PUT YOURSELF IN A PARENT'S SHOES

Imagine that a parent will read your essay. Ask yourself if your literacy skills and the ideas you write about would be well received by a parent who will entrust you with their child's education, social development, and well being. Does your writing reflect your readiness?

### PROOFREAD!

You can save yourself valuable points by taking the time to review your work for errors. Your command of language and writing conventions is an important aspect of your preparedness for teaching, and is also being evaluated.