

Outreach Project

The purpose of this project is to encourage you to extend your thinking and learning about learning beyond the walls of this classroom. Below are several ideas for projects, but there are many others possible. Please feel free to discuss any ideas you might have with one of us. Although most people may choose to work individually, you may work in pairs or even larger groups if you can provide a rationale for the benefit to your learning of working together. You will present this project in a 8-12 page paper, tying your project in with some of the ideas presented in the class..

By Feb. 4, please give me a description of your project. Projects are due Apr. 22.

Possible Projects:

1. Observe a classroom and interview the teacher. Spend two half-days or more volunteering or just observing in a classroom. The CTL project has a list of local teachers who are working to implement contextual teaching and learning in their classrooms. These teachers might be particularly interesting for you to observe. Between your two classroom experiences, interview the teacher about what you have seen and the joys and stresses of teaching, planning, meeting the needs of all children in the class, etc. Turn in your observation and interview notes and write your paper about what you learned and how your experiences relate to some of the ideas discussed in class.
2. Be a tutor for the quarter. Work with the Athens Tutorial Program or other program as a community service. Keep a journal during your experience and turn in your journal entries, discussing in your paper how your experiences relate to some of the ideas discussed in class.
3. Be a teacher's aide in the Challenge program here at UGA (information available upon request). Again, keep a journal during your experience and turn in your journal entries, discussing in your paper how your experiences relate to ideas from the class about innovative teaching &/or relating to gifted students.
4. Email or interview four experts in your field; two teachers/educators and two people who work in the enterprises toward which you will be educating students. Develop several in-depth questions about what they believe students need to learn in their field at the level you plan to teach, and their ideas about how they might best learn these things. If you plan to Email people, you will need to start early in the term, to give them time to reply. You would turn in copies of your questions and their replies, and your paper would discuss how their replies illuminated or challenged your own prior ideas and/or the ideas in class.
5. Plan a learning experience. Plan a short unit or unitary experience (e.g., overnight campout) to teach a topic to students in the subject and at the age you plan to teach. Embody principles of CTL and well as other ideas from class in your planning. Turn in complete plans and activities for your unit, and in your paper, outline your goals for the unit, your proposed activities, and your means of assessment, explaining why you made these choices in light of some of the ideas we have talked about in class.
6. Shadow someone who uses your subject in their work for a day and interview them. Find out what skills they need and use in their work. Turn in your observation and interview notes, and in your paper, write about some of the most important groups of skills and suggest ways to foster these in the classroom.
7. Make up your own and come talk about it.