

Guidelines for Group Contextual Teaching and Learning Project  
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**CTL theme for this project**

This assignment should be grounded in the idea of contextual teaching and learning (CTL). CTL encourages us to 1) examine the relevance of school-based learning to students' everyday lives, 2) develop an understanding of everyday life experiences in the learning process, 3) explore the role of the teacher in providing experiential and real world experiences in classroom teaching, and 4) examine the role of teachers in helping facilitate democracy in the education and lives of students. To reach these objectives, each group should focus their project on a real world experience that affects students, the school, and/or community.

1. Each group will give a ten-minute presentation of their research to the class. I will assign dates for your group to present.
2. Each group will turn in a ten to twelve page double-spaced paper on their research topic. You must use the APA (American Psychological Association) fourth edition style manual for writing this paper. You also need a title page, which includes the names of the group members, title of paper, and the date. Page numbers should be included in your paper, starting with the second page.
3. This project and paper is not a report. Below I have provided a list of broad themes and topics from which you may explore contemporary *problems* in education. Within these themes your group should find a specific problem or issue in contemporary education. The search for a problem or issue will require you to read newspapers, conduct research in the library, and do intense brainstorming with your group. At the end of the paper, I would like your group to give some possible solutions to the problem or issue. Your solutions should be based, as much as possible, on research that has already been conducted. Some of your solutions can be your group's own opinions on the issue. Do not let this project scare you. You are all capable of doing good research. Set your standards high!
4. For the presentation, you may use videos, overheads, music, or any "reasonable" props to get your point across. Make sure you let me know what you need a few days before the presentations.
5. Outline of the paper: Please use these headings for each section. **The CTL Problem** (Should include a thesis statement) **II. How does this problem affect children, the schools, and/or community?** **III. Possible solutions.**

## **General Themes**

You may choose one of these themes from which to find a problem or issue for your project. You may also choose a theme that may not be on this handout. Please notify the instructor if you decide to do something that is not on this list.

Multicultural Education

Culturally-biased tests

Homophobia in the Schools

Poor schools/Rich schools

Afrocentric Education

School Desegregation

Gender Bias in Education and Schooling

School Choice and Vouchers

National Standards for Teachers and Students

Health Education

Drugs and Violence in the Schools

“Big time” Sports in the Schools

Religion in the Schools

Sexual Harassment in the Schools

Values and Moral Education

Media, Video, and Education

Music and Education