

Ed.D. Admissions – Case Study Response

The West College of Education Ed.D. program has, among other criteria, an expectation that students are able to communicate well in many formats, including writing. Writing, a critical component of completing a terminal degree, will constitute the bulk of your communication with faculty and other students. To that end, applicants shall respond to any two of the four scenarios indicated below. As you complete your response, please be sure to include the identifier of the prompt. Responses shall be 400 to 600 words total (i.e. 200 to 300 words for each prompt).

- A. You are the superintendent of schools in a district in which all the school system's buildings are located on a single campus. You received an impromptu visit this morning from Reginald and Beverly Johnson, owners of a very successful automobile dealership in the district. They told you that they would donate a \$2,500 award each year in recognition of a "Teacher of the Year." They conveyed that the criteria for the selection would be decided by you with one exception: 60% of the criteria is teacher service to the community. Within a few hours of the Johnsons' visit, the president of the teachers' association comes to your office. The teacher association president expresses strong opposition to the "Teacher of the Year" award. When you inquire about his reasons, he explains that there are two major problems. First, the award shall acknowledge the work of a single teacher. Second, because the major criterion focuses on community service, teachers who do not reside in the district will be at a distinct disadvantage. He adds, "If this award is implemented, our teachers will not participate." How will you respond?
- B. You are the assistant superintendent for instruction. The middle school principal comes to your office for a scheduled meeting to discuss one of his first-year teachers. The principal explains that the first-year teacher is having a great deal of trouble keeping pace with the required curriculum. The principal tells you that the mentor assigned to work with the teacher is very frustrated because he does not take her advice on ways to improve the pacing of his lessons. Also, the principal tells you that he is beginning to receive contacts from parents of students in the first-year teacher's classes. They say that their children really like him; however, the parents are wondering why there is no homework and why he seldom returns phone calls or emails. The principal asks for your advice. What advice will you give?
- C. As a new assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, you review reading test scores. You realize that one school has scores significantly lower than the district average; however, the teachers explain that they are working extremely hard to meet the literacy needs of their students. When you visit their classrooms, you see teachers working very hard; however, you do not see evidence of effective teaching strategies that will better serve the students' needs. Also, you do not see the evidence of the district's literacy initiative in your teachers' classrooms. As the assistant superintendent, how will you address this situation?
- D. A large number of the elementary teachers in your district have admitted to you, the assistant superintendent, that they are not comfortable teaching mathematics. Your district's mathematics test scores demonstrate a weakness in this area; however, the school district in which you work uses both mathematics and literacy test results to determine how well a school is doing academically. How will you address this situation?

Case Study Rubric

	4	3	2	1
Organization and writing; mechanics and grammar	Very well-organized, good development of ideas, strong sentences, effective and varied transitions; flawless spelling, punctuation, and capitalization; varied and interesting sentence structure.	Logical paragraph order, clear and functional transitions, good development of ideas in clear structure; few spelling/punctuation errors, sentence structure mostly correct.	Topics and ideas discussed randomly; writing lacks clear organization, few transitions; some spelling/punctuation errors; several errors in sentence structure.	Writing is unstructured, inconsistent paragraph order, transitions missing; too many spelling and punctuation errors, sentence fragments and run-ons that do not demonstrate writing mastery.
Addresses the question task	Response fully addresses question task and creatively goes beyond; response is ethical and professional.	Response fully addresses question task and is ethical and professional.	Response partially addresses question task.	Response does not adequately address question task.
Provides practical solutions	Response is appropriate, practical, and creative.	Response is appropriate and practical.	Response is partially appropriate and somewhat practical.	Response is not adequately appropriate or practical.
Identification of the main issues and/or problems	Identifies and understands all the main issues in the case studies.	Identifies and understands most of the main issues in the case studies.	Identifies and understands some of the main issues in the case studies.	Identifies and understands few of the main issues in the case studies.
Analysis of the key issues	Insightful and thorough analysis of all the key issues.	Insightful and thorough analysis of most of the key issues.	Insightful and thorough analysis of some of the key issues.	Incomplete analysis of alternatives with no evaluation method.