

BACKGROUND

SECTION I ASSESSMENT

Major Assessment 1: Develop a Platform of Beliefs

The following major assessment involves integrating your knowledge and skills around defining multicultural education and being a multicultural educator.

You will write a platform of beliefs about teaching and learning. Your platform should be grounded in your growing understanding of teaching and learning, as well as the knowledge base about teaching and learning. You will also describe personal strengths and challenges as an educator in building an educational environment that reflects your beliefs.

In assessing your own strengths and challenge areas, include an analysis of the findings from the assessment instruments and exercises that are included in the previous chapter. You may also access additional assessment instruments.

Include in your platform the following sections:

1. Introduction
2. Your platform of beliefs about teaching and learning. Some essential questions that might be addressed in your platform are these:
 - What do you believe is the purpose of education?
 - What is the role of the teacher?
 - What should be taught (the curriculum)?
 - How do people learn?
 - How do you view students as learners?
 - Who controls the curriculum in schools?
 - Whose knowledge is important to include?
 - Are state standards and tests desirable?
 - What is the impact of standardized testing on learning?
 - How do issues of race, class, and gender influence what you do?
 - What is your definition of effective teaching?
 - Who and what have influenced your beliefs (e.g., people, experiences, readings)?
 - What is the impact of your beliefs on teaching and learning for diverse students?

Make specific and clear connections between your platform and course readings and discussions.

3. Personal strengths and challenges in advancing a school vision of learning; promoting the success of all students; responding to diverse student interests and needs; understanding and responding to social, economic, legal, and cultural contexts
4. Personal goals (knowledge, skills, dispositions) that you will be working on in the future
5. Conclusions