

PSY 621: Advanced Educational Psychology  
Self-Assessment & Action Plan Activity  
Kingston, Jamaica, Summer 2015

(Nine to 12 pages,-word-processed, double spaced, 12-point font, one-inch margins, pages numbered)

You are asked to complete a self-assessment and use the information from that self-assessment to develop an action plan that will address changes and/or improvements that you intend to make, either in relation to your own teaching or in relation to your work as an administrator in your school. During our last week of class meetings we will devote time to planning your self-assessment and your action plan. After our final class meeting you will have one month in order to finish your action plan and submit it in SafeAssign on our Blackboard site.

Steps for completing this assignment

1. Complete your Self-Assessment
  - A. Identify **five topics** from the course readings and discussions and from selected additional sources (see #4 below) that are the most important to you based on any of the following considerations. You **do not need to address all of these questions**; just use them to help guide you in selecting your top five topics.
    - i. What helped you understand better how your students learn better?
    - ii. What helped you understand better your motivation to achieve? Their mindsets? Their attributions and beliefs about themselves?
    - iii. What helped you understand better why your students have academic problems?
    - iv. What helped you understand better why your students have behavioral problems?
    - v. What area(s) of instruction have you been struggling with?
    - vi. What area(s) of behavioral management have you been struggling with?
    - vii. What areas(s) of character development have you been struggling with?
    - viii. What is a brand new idea that you hadn't considered before?
  - B. From your self-assessment **identify a topic area** in which you will make improvements or changes within your own classroom or within your school as a whole.
2. For the area you have identified **provide the following information**:
  - A. ***What did you learn in this course about this topic area?*** Consider the topics addressed in this course in our readings, class discussions and presentations. Be sure to cite the sources of the course materials to which you refer. In addition, consider additional reference sources and provide appropriate citations for the sources that you considered.
  - B. Based on what you learned regarding this topic area, ***what do you want to introduce, change and/or improve in your classroom or in your school?*** You should be as specific as you can in relation to your school, your classroom, your students, etc.
  - C. ***Describe the steps*** that you plan to follow to make these changes or improvements. Be specific as to when you plan to do this: indicate **who** will be involved, what **resources** you anticipate needing, and what **specific actions** you will take. Be sure to **provide your reasons for taking the steps you describe** by referring to course materials and to additional reference sources as needed.

3. Your final paper should be organized as follows.
  - A. An introductory paragraph.
  - B. Five Topics: Describe each topic area and why the information in each area was significant for you. (2-3 paragraphs per topic and about 3 pages total)
  - C. Topic Area of Change/Improvement
    - i. Describe the area that you plan to introduce, change and/or improve. (up to 2 pages)
    - ii. Describe what you plan to introduce/change/improve; what is happening currently and what will be different. (up to 2 pages)
    - iii. Describe the specific steps that you plan to follow to accomplish this goal (up to 4 pages)
  
4. As you prepare your final paper, please follow **current APA style**. Refer to our syllabus for more information about current APA style. In **addition** to our course textbooks, make reference to **at least five** different reference sources from the educational psychology literature. Be sure to use **correct APA format** when you cite your references. These sources can include textbooks or other professional books, book chapters, web sites and journal articles, to which you have access in print or that are available in full-versions online.

**This final paper should be submitted in Blackboard no later than August 23th. It is worth 160 points.**