

Individual Differences Student Profile Essay Criterion Guide for EDUC 205 Development/Individual Differences

Use this criterion guide as a checklist for your Statement of Informed Beliefs portfolio entry. You should be able to check off each of the requirements as you complete them. Once you submit the portfolio entry, your instructor will be using the Statement of Informed Beliefs Rubric to evaluate your completion of the elements listed below.

Transition/Supporting Details/Coherence:

- the essay contains no overlap (similar ideas are arranged together)
- the essay maintains coherence with the use of transitional words, phrases, or sentences throughout the essay
- include 15 educational terms (bolded and underlined) in the essay

Organization:

Overall organization:

- the essay follows a logical method of organization (if the thesis has a plan of development, the organization of the body follows that plan)

Introduction/Conclusion:

- the introduction clearly introduces the topic (uses key words that reflect the writing prompt)
- the introduction presents a focused thesis statement
- the conclusion brings the essay to a graceful close

Body/Paragraphs:

- each body paragraph presents a focused topic sentence (a point that supports the thesis statement)
- The supporting points are developed with ideas from readings, interviews, or examples from the writer's own experience, knowledge, observation, or critical analysis.
- the supporting details/examples are present

Mechanics/Usage

- grammatical, punctuation, and mechanical errors do not disrupt the flow or clarity of the essay (no fragments; very few run-on sentences)
- the essay is free of proof-reading and spelling errors
- the essay contains sentence variety
- APA Format 5.0 must be used:
 - Do not use letters or numbers such as those used in outlines.
 - Indent paragraphs 5 to 7 spaces.
 - Do not use imperatives such as, "Give them a sticker." Instead, "I would give them a sticker" would be more appropriate.

Format:

- the essay includes a title page (centered, no italics)
- double-spaced
- document needs to be saved on a word processor hard drive and a disk or CD
- 12pt/Times New Roman font
- cover sheet (considered to be page number one) with running head

Format:

- identifying information on cover sheet:
 - Name of assignment
 - Your name
 - Instructor's name spelled correctly
 - Course name and time of class included
- 1" margins (top, bottom, right, and left (no right justification)
- subtitles are formatted correctly (flushed left and italicized—(Example: *Major Goal of Education*)
- stapled in upper left hand corner
- the essay meets the length of the writing assignment (4-6 pages)
- any quote used requires proper APA citation and a proper reference sheet

Development:

- mention **two theorists** by name and rationale for including them
- Each of the following sections is answered in one to two paragraphs for a total of approximately 13 paragraphs:
- Introduction to the essay
 - Section 1: General Information (1 paragraph)
 - Section 2: Physical Development (2 paragraphs)
 - Section 3: Cognitive Development (2 paragraphs)
 - Section 4: Socio-emotional Development (2 paragraphs)
 - Section 5-A: Summary of Major Findings
 - 5-B: Conclusions
 - Cognitive, Physical, and Socio-emotional Domain (1-2 paragraphs)
 - Strengths/weaknesses (1 paragraph)
 - Strategies for Teaching (1 paragraph)
 - Concluding essay paragraph
-