**Current Events in Education Project**

**EDUC 111**

**Presentations will be given on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

For this project, you will work with a small group to research and create a 10-12 minute presentation about a current event in education. You will use credible sources to gather information and present at least two perspectives on the issue. The overall goal of the project is to help you gain an *overview* of several current-day issues that affect K-12 public education and issues that education affects. This project will help create a context for our reading and discussions.

**Potential connections to course objectives:**

1. To describe the changing role of government in education at the local, state, and national levels, as well as the influence government has on education.
2. To describe the organization and structure of the levels of instruction from early childhood through high school.
3. To compare and contrast the current theories of teaching in American education.
4. To analyze the current challenges in American education.

Step One

* Form a group of 3-4 people who you can work with.
* As a group, brainstorm some topics you might research and report about. Develop a topic that you all have some interest or investment in.
* Discuss topic with your instructor. Narrow your topic appropriately. For example, rural education is too broad a topic. What *about* rural education might you research?

Step Two

* As a group, search for reliable and credible information about your topic and read up. We will discuss the use of Ebscohost, Google Scholar, and possible other academic and popular information sources for this project.
* Share influential ideas you come across in your reading.

Step Three

* Divide the work of creating the presentation evenly. Decide what information you will include in your presentation and who will do what tasks.
* Create your 10-12 minute presentation in an original, entertaining way. Innovative and memorable approaches will walk hand in hand. Your options for the mode of presentation are unlimited: PowerPoint, Prezi, Sway, video, web page, live performance, etc. Remember no, Google Slides.
* Build a one-page handout to go along with your presentation for the class. I will make copies of your handout to distribute before your presentation if and only if you email me your handout to [kara.lycke@psd150.org](mailto:kara.lycke@psd150.org) by 7:30 the day of your presentation.

Step Four

* Present with your group.
* Listen attentively to the other presentations. Ask questions.

**Possible General Topic Areas—T**hese topic areas would need to be narrowed to a more specific focus.

Electronics in the classroom

Ranking of American public education

Struggling schools

School safety

Students’ immigration status

College readiness

Year-round school

Homework

The achievement gap

Gender or sexuality issues in schools

Special education

National preschool

Race or ethnic issues in schools

Federal or state legislation

Graduation rates

Liberal arts vs. career preparation

Financing public education

Legal issues in education

Choose a general topic area and work to focus your ideas. Go to the website of any major or local news organization and browse their education section. For example, *US News*, the *New York Times*, the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Peoria Journal Star*, and National Public Radio among many others include education reporting. You could also go to ed.gov and see what the buzz is there.