



## Guidelines for Writing Your Student Teaching Autobiography

- DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO WRITE IT!
- Make an outline of what you want to say. Each paragraph should develop and discuss only one idea and lead easily into the next paragraph.
- Write a first draft.
- Put your draft aside for 24 hours and read again.
- Be attentive to grammar, punctuation and spelling.
- Let someone else read and evaluate your paper.
- Type or word process your autobiography. Nothing handwritten.
- Make sure the length of the essay is appropriate. Four paragraphs is too brief and four pages is too long.

YES: "I have worked extensively with summer youth sports programs through the local Recreation Department."

NO!!!!: "In the summer of 2000, I helped Mr. Belancourt coach the five year olds in T-Ball. We were the champions that summer, and it was great to see how excited those kids were every time we got on the field. In the summer of 2001, I decided that I wanted to try a different sport. I started coaching girls' swimming, but the program ran out of money, so I had to switch again. This time I worked at the batting cages...."

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### Suggested Outline

- Paragraph 1: State your position in the family --only child, oldest, youngest or in-between. How many siblings? Discuss your family situation - do you live with one or both parents or with a guardian, with a spouse? Do you have children?
- Paragraph 2: Discuss your community if it has an impact on you. If you had important educational experiences in high school or university, tell us.
- Paragraph 3: Why do you want to be a teacher? Who was responsible for your interest in teaching? What are your "best subjects"? What are your professional goals? What excites you about teaching and learning?
- Paragraph 4: Discuss your grade point average. Is it an honest reflection of your mastery of the course work?
- Paragraph 5: Discuss any extra-curricular or community or volunteer activities - government, sports, music, church participation, favorite hobbies. Focus on work with children/adolescents & positions of responsibility.
- Paragraph 6: Write about your past achievements. These don't necessarily have to be ribbons, medals or trophies you've won, but could be promotions at work, mastering a difficult skill, whatever.
- Paragraph 7: What strengths, talents, skills will you bring to the classroom where you are placed for student teaching?