

Action Journal Assignment

Based on what you learn in class and from the online Discussion Board, create an **Action Journal** that will *include at least one plan of action for each major topic we cover in class*. The end result will be a collection of strategies and ideas for you to take away from this course to use in your future work with adolescents.

This will be less formal than a paper; it can be a series of bullets under each area or a cut-and-paste of contributions made by your classmates on the Discussion Board or in-class discussions.

This is not an assignment that can be written up early in the semester; in fact, it can only be completed toward the end of the course. The ideal way to approach it is to create a WORD document, saved as “Action Journal” (or some such catchy title!) and add to it each week or two. I recommend:

- Reading (and contributing to!) the Discussion Board at least once a week and copying and pasting any interesting thoughts or strategies that you see contributed by any classmates. If you do this, please begin with the class member’s name to cite whose idea it was originally (see example of idea originally posted by NANCY below).
- Adding any strategies discussed in class that you think you might want to keep in mind for your future work in schools.

The final product will be uniquely yours and, hopefully, very usable in your teaching with adolescents in middle or high school settings.

Example

Module 3 Cognitive Development

- I would like to do an activity with my students where they learn about Gardner’s Multiple Intelligences so that they know in what ways they’re “smart”.
- Have students recognize their best and worst learning environments
- Hold a discussion asking the following questions: What is the best thinking based on noise, space, food time, company or solitude? What is your ideal learning situation?
- NANCY: “ I remember learning about the color wheel in art class. My teacher would teach us the basic concept and give us the freedom to express it in whatever way we wanted to. I am not an artsy person and every time I tried to blend the colors together, it never quite worked out. Nevertheless, I loved the freedom of being able to express what she taught us in my own way.”