

Portfolio and Final Paper

Final Paper/Portfolio

The Massachusetts Department of Education has asked that the MIT Teacher Education Program show evidence that its students are progressing towards meeting the state teacher competencies (and not just handing out "A"s). We need your help documenting this progress. Each student will need to choose a small number (3-6) of pieces of work from this semester that demonstrate what you have learned. Specifically, they'll be looking for work that you have done that demonstrates:

- things that you have learned that would prepare you to teach or work with students in a K-12 classroom
- evidence of development of or changes in your understanding of teaching and learning (especially modes of teaching)
- your grasp of the issues that schools (specific ones and schools in general) face and possible solutions for these problems
- knowledge about the diversity of student and teacher experiences in schools

Since we have done a number of hands-on activities in class during the semester (pulleys, straw towers, educational technology), you should include some mention of these in your portfolio. Specifically, you should think about the fact that each of these clearly takes much longer than delivering the same subject matter content via lecture, yet these experiences also bring with them other learning opportunities. What are these learning opportunities and how do you think you could measure their success in your students as you conduct these activities?

You should also think about your teaching philosophy in an historical context. Looking back on where American education has gone over the past century+, and the purpose that it serves, how do you see your role as a teacher fitting with that? Should we be educating citizens? workers? creative problem solvers? How have past efforts to take these on and their successes/failures influenced your thinking?

You should create a Moodle blog entry, a [Mahara e-portfolio](#), or your own webpage for this assignment that discusses these issues and links to other documents (assignments, in class work, observations). You are welcome to add additional documents that reference readings from class (strongly recommended), your experiences in the schools, or your reflections on class work.

New text equivalent length of 5 pages.

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