

Written Assignment Due During the First 8 Weeks of FTA

This is an informational handout for students wanting an “A” in FTA for the first 9 weeks of this semester.

- Want an "A" at midterm? Get this paper in early.
- You do not need to wait until the end of the eighth week of the grading period to turn it in.
- If you turn the paper in before the end of the third week of this quarter you will get an “A” on your mid-term grade. If not then expect a “B” for your mid-term grade. You can still get an “A” for the final quarter grade if you get the paper in during the eighth week.
- Please make sure that you have your name, class block number and your cooperating teacher’s name on the paper.

Example: John Smith
 Third Block
 Mrs. Jones, 5th Grade

- Please read the example reports below to get an idea of what we want in the paper called...

My FTA Cooperating Teacher

- Please turn in your paper to Mr. Geesaman in room 402 (look for the special box labeled FTA)
- Three example papers follow:

These example papers were edited only by removing the teacher and students' names. You will gather your information during the interview of your cooperating teacher.

FTA example interview paper # 1

Here is an example report from last semester. The teacher’s name has been removed. **This is an interview summary format.**

"COOPERATING TEACHER'S PREPARATION REPORT"

Mrs. XXXXXXXXXXX has been teaching for twenty years. She attended the University of Northern Colorado her first two years of college. While attending UNC she planned on becoming a nurse. When she went to college, women could become either a nurse or a teacher. After two years of working on becoming a nurse she decided she didn't like the science part of becoming a nurse. So she transferred to the University of Southern Colorado. She majored in Physical education.

After graduating from USC she substitute taught for one year. Her first teaching job was in a first grade classroom. She then moved on to teach third grade for a couple of years. She then took a job in Kindergarten. She took this job because she wanted to teach part-time and this was a part-time job. She has also done some tutoring and home bound teaching. Mrs. XXXXXXXXXXXX has worked at three different elementary schools while teaching. These schools were Harrison, Skyline and Washington which is where she is presently teaching. Mrs. XXXXXXXXXXXX stated that you really need to enjoy being with children to be a teacher. She feels that to be a teacher you need to be born with this special quality that all good teachers have. She enjoys teaching children immensely. One thing that she really enjoys is that kids never change and always show who they really are, especially in Kindergarten. One thing that has changed is the style of teaching. With all of the technological advancements teaching has become easier. Kids are the reason that Mrs. XXXXXXXXXXXX loves teaching. She wants every child to have a chance to succeed.

One thing Mrs. XXXXXXXXXXXX would love to do before she retires is work with kids one on one in a job such as Adaptive P.E. or Speech Therapy. She said that she feels that kids benefit greatly from one on one work. Mrs. XXXXXXXXXXXX reiterated that to be a good teacher you need to love kids.

FTA example interview paper # 2

Here is an example report from last semester. The teacher's and student's names have been changed. **This is a question and answer format.**

My FTA Cooperating Teacher's Preparation

My report is about Mr. XxX XXXXXXXX, a computer teacher inXXXXX Elementary School.

After high school, Mr.XXXXXXX worked at Estes Park as a bus boy. After a couple of months of working there, he and some friends traveled all over the United States. When he was finished, he returned to Estes Park. While he was working, again, he enlisted in the Army. He was in the Army for three years as a Company Clerk. In the Army, he learned some organization skills which benefits him today.

Jill: Why did you want to become a teacher?

Mr. XXXXXXX: "After three years of not knowing what I wanted to do in college, I took a class that evaluated high school and elementary school children. I was interested the elementary3, children because they were open and receptive to education. After I took that class, I arranged my schedule with classes that related to becoming a teacher. I was in college another two years, working for my goal. To get my Bachelor of Arts degree, I majored in English and Social Studies for Elementary Education. Also to get my Bachelor of Arts degree, I minored in Reading. I got my Masters degree majoring in Elementary Education. Now, I have to keep going back to college every five years to get credit hours. I have been teaching for 23 years."

Jill: What are the major responsibilities/duties associated with your job?

Mr.XXXXXX "My responsibilities are:"
:
"Kids I teach"
"The child's' parents"
"The people who hire me to do the job I'm doing"
"Myself plans" "Preparing for class" "Being ready for class"

Jill: What do you like most about your job?

Mr.XXXXXXX: "Watching the children grow from beginning to the end of the school year."
"Doing something new with computers."
"Watching myself grow along with the children."

Jill: What do you find most frustrating or like least about your job?

Mr.XXXXXXX: "The older I get, the less patience I have when the children don't pay attention or don't do the work assigned to them."

Jill: What qualifications/training/education/experience are required for being a teacher?

Mr. XXXXXXX: "The district gives basic education tests to see how qualified the person is. Go through a program that may require a five year degree instead of a four year degree."

Jill: What types of interests and abilities do you think are necessary for someone interested in becoming a teacher?

Jill: What are the most important skills needed/used in being a teacher?

Mr. XXXXXXX: -"Organization Skills" "Academic Skills" -"Good Communication"

Jill: What is something that you've found interesting or surprising about teaching or something that most people really don't know about being a teacher?

Mr.XXXXXXX: "What I have found surprising was the first year you're with the children, you see them grow physically and mentally. Also, doing recess or lunch duty is part of an elementary teachers job even though it's not fun."

Jill: What is the typical salary range for being a teacher?

Mr.XXXXX: "The start salary is \$22,000 - \$23,000 to \$48,000 a year. After 18 years, you stop getting raises. For my Bachelor of Arts degree, which is 5 to 6 years, I got no more credit hours. More training the more money I got. When I went back to get my Masters degree, I went down a year for a raise."

Jill: What is the outlook for being a teacher?

Mr.XXXXXXX: -"Public demands more teachers."
"Parents are also responsible for their child's' learning."
"More and more home and core-knowledge schools."

Jill: What is the competition to get a teaching job?

Mr.XXXXXXX: -"Hard to get a teaching job in Colorado."
"Clinton passed a billion dollar bill to teach more teachers because teachers are in demand."

Jill: What are some related jobs that you could transfer into?

Mr.XXXXXXX: -"Counseling"
-"Recreation"
"Any business that needs organization skills"
-"Computer job"
-"My own tutoring"

Jill: If you were to change jobs, what would you do?

Mr.XXXXXXX: "A computer-related or technology field."

Jill: Where do you see yourself in five years?

Mr. XXXXXX: "I see myself doing something other than teaching like a computer-related field."

Jill: What do you consider as the advantages and disadvantages of being a teacher?

Mr.XXXXXXX: "The advantages I consider are:" -"Summer and holidays, getting them off." "Pay"
"Getting another job during the summer, to earn extra money." "Some disadvantages are:" Pay"
"No vacations besides holidays."

Jill: What advice would you offer to someone interested in becoming a teacher?

Mr. XXXXXX: "Understand that teaching is not a high-paying job."
"If you're happy doing it, then do it."
"Expect to help teach things that the children don't know."

FTA example interview paper # 3

Here is an example report from last semester. The teacher's and student's name have been removed. **This is an example of "interview summary" format.**

Cooperating Teacher Preparation Report

Mrs. VVVVVVV is a 1st grade teacher at Washington Elementary School. She is very talented in many areas and had a variety of experience.

Mrs. VVVVVVV attended Adams' State College and received her BA. She has also taken 36 or more hours of credit from these colleges; Regis, University of Northern Colorado and University of Southern Colorado. She is now beginning the process of getting her masters. She plans to master in reading.

Mrs. VVVVVVV has had a wonderful teaching experience. She first started in Florence as a sixth grade math specialist. She later taught sixth and fourth grade for a total of seven years in Florence. She then substituted in Canon City elementary schools because her children were very young and she only wanted to work part-time. From there she went to Lincoln thinking she had a half time job, which she wanted. Later she found out, due to numbers, it was a full time position as a sixth grade teacher. After a few years her principal gave her the option of changing grades, so she switched to first grade. She is now at Washington Elementary teaching first grade. This is her fourth year teaching first grade at Washington. She started at Washington teaching second grade.

Her reasons for teaching were that she was the oldest in her family so it all came natural to her. She also had many ideas of interesting occupations but teaching came to be the one. She was a pharmacist apprentice in high school and realized that she wasn't really using math and science except to count pills. Her main strengths in high school were math and science. She then wanted to be a PE teacher and realized that wasn't it either. She later majored in Elementary with an emphasis in math.

Her main influence in her teaching is her sixth grade teacher. He was her first male teacher. She remembers him because he expected success and he was a very positive teacher all the time. He was the teacher that inspired her for success.

Mrs. VVVVVVV continues to teach because she loves her job. She said that there is always a Surprise to keep you going. She also said there is never a day where everything is exactly the same. Mrs. VVVVVVV said she doesn't know what grade she will be heading to next. She usually stays at the same grade level for around six years. The first two years are figuring out the expectations and then the years after are

integrating new ideas and perfecting her teaching. She said that there are only two grades left but doesn't know when she might change because she is really enjoying first grade.