MED 599 ACTION RESEARCH PROJECT

Assignment 5 – Examining Educational Beliefs

We all come to teaching and learning with several opinions, attitudes, and beliefs about “the right way” to do things. We have beliefs about how students should behave, what students should learn, how they should learn it, the role of homework, the role of textbooks, the role of parents, and our role as teachers (to name a few).

While we can articulate many of these beliefs, we may be unaware of some of them. Beliefs are established in a variety of ways: some based on facts, some on experiences, some on impressions, and some on feelings.

The goal of this assignment is to explore your beliefs about teaching and learning. As you implement action research, you will alternate between taking action with critical reflection. Because our beliefs about education influence the choices we make (the actions) and our interpretations of situations (the critical reflection), examining our beliefs is an important part of action research.

Part 1 Reading: The purpose of the reading is (1) to provide you with information about some well-developed views of learning and (2) to provide a common reference for articulating your beliefs about teaching and learning.

- Carefully read the four views of learning (page 45) of Huetinck and Munshin (2004).

Part 2 Reflection: The purpose of the writing is to articulate your views about teaching and learning.

The table in Huetinck and Munshin (2004) examines what each view of learning—behavioral, exogenous constructivism, endogenous constructivism, and social constructivism—says about the following components of education: knowledge, learning, teaching, the role of the teacher, the role of peers and the role of students.

- Write a 3–5 page paper about why you hold the views you do and the evidence in your practice that you hold that view. Be sure to address each component of education listed in the table. Your view may vary from component to component and given the realities of teaching, your views may not always match your practice. When that is the case, please indicate why.

There are no right and wrong views; these views represent various ways that the educational community has categorized learning. What is important is that you be honest with yourself about your beliefs because you cannot examine your practice effectively without being aware of the assumptions and beliefs you bring to it.

As you work on your action research, you may find that your beliefs are not exactly what you thought they were or that they are changing as a result of what you are learning through action research. That is a natural part of investigating your practice.
Format Requirements

- Your paper should be typed and double-spaced in an appropriate font and should be moderate in length (3 – 5 pages).
- Please include a cover page with your name, the date, the course number and credit number, the assignment number, and your current area of focus.
- The file name for your assignment should be Assign05.Name where Name is your last name (e.g., Assign05.Powers)
- You may submit the assignment via Blackboard or e-mail.

Assignment Rubric

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<td>Did not address any aspect of the prompt in a satisfactory way.</td>
<td>Addresses some but not all aspects of the prompt in a mostly satisfactory way.</td>
<td>Address some but not all aspects of the prompt in a mostly satisfactory way.</td>
<td>Addresses all aspects of the prompt, but some aspects are unsatisfactory.</td>
<td>Addresses all aspects of the prompt in a mostly satisfactory way.</td>
<td>Addresses all aspects of the prompt in a satisfactory way.</td>
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Satisfactory work includes:
- Completing the task on time
- Writing is clear and unambiguous
- Terminology is consistent with the course materials
- Answers are well-thought
- Answers are factually correct
- Opinions are supported by reason

Note: This assignment is directly related to Chapter 2 of your Action Research Project report.