

This I Now Believe: Revisiting and Revising Your Thinking

(Please do not begin this assignment until we review it in class)

Purpose

At the beginning of the course, you wrote a “This I Believe” statement that captured your thinking about teaching and learning at that moment.

This assignment asks you to **return to that earlier statement and examine how your thinking has developed.**

The goal is not simply to add more ideas, but to:

- **revisit your original beliefs**
- **integrate new learning from the course**
- **revise, extend, or complicate your thinking**

This work reflects an important part of learning to teach: not just taking up new ideas, but **reconsidering what you believe and why.**

What You Will Do

You will revisit your original statement and choose one of the following formats:

- Write a new statement that reflects your current thinking
- Revise your original statement by integrating new ideas
- Use track changes to show how your thinking has developed
- Write a letter to your past self that responds to your earlier beliefs
- Create an audio/video version based on one of the options above

All options should reflect **substantive engagement with your original beliefs and course learning.**

Central Task

Across all formats, your work should:

- Revisit your earlier beliefs about teaching and learning
- Identify where your thinking has:
 - expanded
 - shifted

- been challenged
- become more specific
- Integrate ideas from the course in ways that are **clearly connected to your thinking**
- Use specific examples (from course experiences, readings, microteaching, discussions, etc.) to support your ideas

You do not need formal citations, but your writing should clearly reflect **where course learning has influenced your thinking**.

Writing Guidance

Work from your original statement

Reread your earlier writing and decide how you want to engage with it.

Focus on change and development

Where has your thinking shifted? What has become more complex or nuanced?

Be specific

Move beyond general statements by connecting your ideas to:

- course experiences
- specific moments of learning
- changes in how you think about teaching

Use your own voice

Write (or speak) in the first person, using language that reflects how you think and speak.

Revise for clarity

Read your work aloud and refine it until it clearly reflects your thinking.

A Note on Academic Integrity

Do not use generative AI for this assignment. This work is intended to reflect your own thinking and development over time.

Expectations

- Length will vary by format (generally longer than the original statement)
- Clear connection to your original “This I Believe” statement
- Specific integration of course ideas and experiences
- Writing that is personal, clear, and reflective of your thinking

Rubric/Evaluation

Evaluation is based on how clearly you revisit your original beliefs, integrate course learning, and demonstrate development in your thinking.

- A. The response provides a **clear, focused revision of earlier beliefs** and demonstrates meaningful development in thinking. The student integrates course ideas and experiences in specific and purposeful ways, showing how learning has shaped or complicated their perspective. Writing is personal, specific, and authentic.
- B. The response revisits earlier beliefs and incorporates relevant course ideas. Development in thinking is evident, though some connections could be more fully elaborated or specific. Writing is personal and generally clear.
- C. The response references earlier beliefs but shows **limited development or integration** of course learning. Ideas may remain general or insufficiently connected to specific experiences. Writing is personal but lacks depth or clarity in places.
- D. The response shows **minimal engagement with earlier beliefs** or limited integration of course learning. Support is imbalanced or unclear. Writing may be:
 - a. general rather than specific
 - b. academic rather than personal
 - c. reliant on jargon or cliché
- E. The assignment does not meet the criteria outlined above or is incomplete.