

## INTERVIEW AND REFLECTION

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This project will give you an opportunity to interview gifted and talented individuals and reflect within the context of what you have learned in this course. Based on the interview of four gifted learners, you will write a reflection essay centered on characteristics in cognitive, social, and affective dimensions. This reflection goes beyond the specifics of the interviewees to generalize to the academically gifted or creative population. What have you learned about the characteristics of individuals who are gifted intellectually and highly creative. What are the implications for you as you teach children and young people or work with them in a different setting?

The paper should be in APA (7th edition) format. Papers will be assessed using the Essay DAP Tool (Developing and Assessing Product Tool.)

The assignment has two main tasks:

- A) Interview two individuals you consider to be intellectually gifted. They may be students (if you teach at the middle school or high school levels) or individuals you know otherwise. You must get parental permission if interviewees are underage. Please use the following questions and add your own questions to probe the academic and social-emotional needs of intellectually gifted individuals.

- What are/were their experiences in and outside of school?
- What are their interests?
- What motivates (or motivated) them to work hard or not to work hard in school?
- What kinds of books do they prefer to read?

These questions are only your starting point as you will add questions you think will enhance your understanding of intellectually gifted individuals and add depth to your interviews.

- B) Interview two high school students or adults whom you consider to be very creative in their thinking (don't just think about those who are gifted in the visual and performing arts).

Questions to get you started (but add your own):

- Define creativity.
- What were the effects of their being very creative during elementary, middle, and high school?
- How has being very creative helped or hurt them?

This is not the full list of questions as you are to add to the questions.

Reflect on what you learned from these interviews (not specifics about the four interviewees but what you generalize from the interviews).

- Using the Essay DAP Tool as a guide, write a paper including the following sections:
  - o A brief introduction
  - o A brief introduction to interviewees that includes demographics, education, career (if applicable) and any other pertinent details
  - o Synthesis of (a) cognitive characteristics of giftedness, (b) affective characteristics of giftedness, and (c) social characteristics of giftedness (The discussion indicates a clear understanding of the individual's characteristics as related to giftedness. The description is detailed, insightful, and coherent. The ideas are supported well by examples from the interview, class information, and readings. Comparisons of creative and intellectually gifted people should be embedded.)
  - o Any additional information from the interviews that relates to what we have discussed or read
  - o Implications for you as an educator: a strong synthesis links interviews clearly and logically to implications across various contexts
  - o Interviews are included either as appendices or audio recordings.