

Assignment 2

A School of Your Desires in a World of Your Desires

This assignment asks a question only you can answer. It is an important question because, as someone has observed, everything made by human beings is made twice: the first time in desire and imagination, the second time in the world.

Assignment: (1) Construct a set of sentences which state the necessary and sufficient conditions for what you would find desirable in a world of your desires.

(2) Construct a list of sentences which state the necessary and sufficient conditions for what you would find desirable in a school you want to work at as an educator and that you would want to attend as a student.

Note:

- Put all sentences in the present tense (i.e., use are, not will be)
- You do not to be able to defend your statements. The fact that you desire a specific state of affairs is sufficient defense.
- Necessary and sufficient conditions means that you have identified all the conditions you would need to satisfy your desires. (This is what makes the assignment tricky--If your list came true (or is true already), is that sufficient to fulfill your desires, or is something else needed?)
- Statements may be general, e.g., "My desire is that school be a joyful place."
- Statements may be specific, e.g., "There are no grades at the school where I teach. Students self-evaluate their work. If teachers do not agree, they provide a written of what is needed."
- Your answer does not need to agree with anyone else (including the instructor) or with existing schools or school practice.
- Your answer does not need to be "realistic" or "practical" or "possible."
- I do ask:
 - that you give the matter deep thought,
 - that you are prepared to share/discuss your desires (but not to have to defend them),
 - and that you can truthfully say, yes, if this list of statements were fulfilled, I think that I would be happy learning or working at such a school.

STAPLE THIS SHEET TO THE TOP OF YOUR PAPER. PUT YOUR NAME ON THE BACK.

Scoring Guide

Directions: Review your paper for each of the following, then check off that you have done it (or fix it before turning it in).

___ Is your answer in list form (and not in paragraphs)?

___ Is your list in the present tense? (For example, write “Students are able to meet their basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter” rather than “Students will be able to...” The reason for putting statements in present tense is that present tense make a more direct and powerful statement and image, and our purpose is to create a detailed and sustaining vision of a world and a school of our desires.

___ Did you list all the conditions necessary for the world of your desires? In other words, if all the conditions you have listed were met, are you satisfied that no matter what other conditions were present, that this would be a world of your desires?

___ Did you list all the conditions necessary for the school of your desires? In other words, if all the conditions you have listed were met, are you satisfied that no matter what other conditions were present, that this would be a school of your desires?