



Ed Studies News

Teacher Scholars for Social Justice

Helpful Hints for a Brand New Semester

It's hard to believe that we're already four weeks deep into the spring semester, isn't it? Classes are in full swing, coursework seems (mostly) doable, and you're no longer forgetting which class you're supposed to go to after lunch (or maybe you are—we're not judging). Yet, the potential for disaster lurks just around the corner—a cheery thought, right? Well, fear not! Here are some helpful hints to ensure a successful semester:

Back it up! If you haven't already done so, back up those files. You never know when your beloved computer will turn traitor on you and destroy that paper you've been toiling away on for five hours. Make a habit of saving files to an external drive or online site like Google drive or Dropbox. Might we suggest you go do that right now before your computer decides it doesn't like you anymore?

Stay Organized: Chandra Shipley recently sent out an app to first year students, and it looks like an awesome app for staying organized. It's call My Homework App (<https://myhomeworkapp.com/>). Check it out!



Break it Up: We know that some tasks seem utterly impossible when you look at them as a whole. But don't be discouraged. Just take those huge tasks and break them up into smaller, more manageable pieces (and document those manageable pieces on your Google calendar or homework app). If you break big tasks into a series of smaller ones, you won't be stuck trying to put together coherent thoughts for that research paper at 4:00 am. Trust us—no one's coherent at 4:00 am. No one.

Strategize: Check out the Academic Skills Series offered through the Division of Academic and Student Affairs. Sessions are held on Wednesdays at noon in CNS E101—and they have pizza! Upcoming topics include Study Smart and Read Efficiently. Did we mention that they will have pizza?

The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Ed Studies Book Club

FREE Book!!! FREE Food!!! FREE Book!!!

OK, so we may not have Oprah, but we do have a pretty awesome Book Club starting this semester. Don't miss this chance to be part of the inaugural Ed Studies Book Club. We will be reading *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates, a book that grapples with issues of race in America and is told through a series of letters from a father to his son. We'll gather on **March 23 at noon** to discuss our insights and responses to the book. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to be part of a meaningful dialogue about an incredibly relevant topic. Email Christine Horner (chorner@iwu.edu) to reserve your free copy today. Oh, and we'll have pizza for the discussion, so there's that!

Global Storytelling Project

Volunteers from the Elementary Ed Junior Cohort have been working with IWU International students and International Studies students to bring a series of Global Storytelling presentations to the Bloomington Public Library. Using the International students' home countries as the focus, Ed Studies students help select books, activities, and crafts for the story time each Saturday. By all accounts, the project is a rousing success!

Way to go, Ed Studies students **Morgan Houk, Faith Richard, Amy Sanchez, and Cathy Tatsuguchi!**

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Meaningful Field Work from the Start

One of the more distinctive aspects of our Ed Studies program is how early our students can be out in the classroom doing field work. By spending time in the classroom in the first few semesters, IWU students have a chance not only to see the classroom through new eyes, but also to make meaningful connections with students. Plus, those early field placements allow Ed Studies students to use their personal skills and talents for the benefit of elementary and secondary students. Said **Amber Stringer** of her field work in 255, "I think that speaking in Spanish to my mentee helps her feel more comfortable during our mentoring sessions. Also, it is a great opportunity for me to grow as a Spanish speaker. I am practicing the language, and I am helping a student at the same time; and I think that it is a really great opportunity for the both of us." Well said, Amber! And, **Emma Lewis** echoes those ideas: "Speaking Spanish with my mentees has been a wonderful opportunity to not only practice my Spanish, but also to connect with my students on a deeper level. My experiences have motivated me to teach a bilingual class in the future." Indeed!

And, he's a winner!

Congratulations to **Shaun Schaefer**, the winner of a \$10 gas card. All he had to do was count the number of birds in the previous newsletter. There were 22, btw. Remarkably, Shaun was the only person to get the answer correct. Then again, he was also the only person to enter!
You can't win if you don't enter, folks!

This is Shaun.

Shaun likes getting a free gas card by counting birds in the newsletter.

Shaun thinks you're silly if you don't enter an easy contest.

Shaun is smart.

Be like Shaun.



Check It Out!

The American Association of School Librarians' has a great website with all kinds of ideas to spice up your lessons including apps and websites your students are sure to love!
<http://www.ala.org/aas/standards-guidelines/best-websites/2014#storytelling>

Snow What?

Curious about all that white stuff falling from the sky? Check out this website (<http://www.snowcrystals.com/>) to learn about processes like branching, faceting, and sharpening, three processes that determine how snowflakes get their shapes.

Cool stuff!

Spotting Social Justice Connections

The Ed Studies department challenges you to remain attuned to how the theme of social justice manifests itself in all your courses. Be ever-watchful for meaningful connections within and between your courses.

1. Count the snowflakes in this newsletter.

2. Send your count to Pennie Gray (pgray1@iwu.edu).

3. Maybe win a gift card!

It's worth a shot, right?

Mark your calendars now for the 4TH BI-ANNUAL ED STUDIES TECH SHOWCASE 2016

Feb 10, 2016, 4:30-7 pm

SFH 001 & 004

Come learn from your peers about all kinds of new technologies and practical strategies for using technology in interesting and innovative ways!

This is a can't-miss opportunity!

*Twitter #TechShowcase2016



Need a laugh? Check out this article from *The Onion* about budget-strapped schools cutting out the past tense from English instruction. Is it funny or prophetic? You decide!

<http://www.theonion.com/article/underfunded-schools-forced-to-cut-past-tense-from--2336>