

Nellie Edge Online Seminar (NEOS) #2: Kindergarten-Friendly Handwriting Matters!

University Credit Option – PEDU 9014: Creating Practical Strategies and Ideas

Meaningful Practicum Suggestions

- ❖ **15 hours of practicum project work is required for each unit of credit. NEOS #2 may be taken for up to 3 units of credits.**

If handwriting motions are not automatic, it interferes with the whole writing process.

Watch the online seminar, chapter by chapter, and reflect on each practice. Print the Power Guide, documents, self-assessment guidelines, and Nellie Edge handwriting blogs. These will provide great content for your professional learning community (PLC)! **Define goals and projects that are most meaningful for you.** The following practicum ideas are only suggestions. You are always welcome to design a special project that meets your unique professional development goals relating to the online seminar topic. (You will find studying so much easier if you have the resources bound.)

Dr. Lifson at the University of the Pacific always allows teachers to design their own practicum project that meets their unique teaching and learning needs. **You DO NOT NEED to write a 3-page paper** unless that is a meaningful project and would be the best way for you to improve your teaching of Handwriting.

1. Analyze your current name writing program:

How can you make it more intentional, systematic, and successful? How do you make the learning goals visible to each child? Include name writing guides for families, and support materials for instructional aides and classroom volunteers.

2. Connect kindergarten-friendly handwriting with teaching of high-frequency “heart words.”

Efficient handwriting motions for the words “I love you” provides the anchor sentence that children will write over and over again. Notice that the pink and purple “heart words” and related sentences provide authentic handwriting practice for all of the lowercase letters except p, q, x, and z! Have high expectations that children are capable of remembering what their target letters are, verbalizing the language for letter formation, working hard, and getting it right!

3. Develop a “Parents as Partners” in Kindergarten-Friendly Handwriting and Fine Motor Development Activities packet to share with families.

Use the Nellie Edge Handwriting Blogs and Pinterest Fine Motor Development and Kindergarten Handwriting boards for additional finger dexterity building activities. Stress how helpful it is for the children to practice these skills in the classroom and at home. Remember — fingerspelling the ABCs is one of the best strategies for fine motor skills development!

4. Learn the Kindergarten-Friendly Handwriting songs and chants from the *Sing, Sign, Spell, and Read!* CD.

Teach them to the children with passion and dramatic flair! Remind the children of the key handwriting positive affirmation “I always start my letters at the top!”

5. Enhance handwriting skills by teaching children to draw and explore shapes.

Provide lessons that teach the child how to make a twinkling star (lift-the-pen motion), a spiral van Gogh-like star (continuous motion), and a five point star to help children integrate movement patterns. What do you notice? Are the children using rich art related language such as “a Van Gogh-like star”?

6. Read the excerpts from handwriting research.

Research additional handwriting “best practices.” Write a paper on why handwriting matters for “best practices” Write paper on why handwriting matters for children today. Share the paper with kindergarten colleagues, parents, and your school primary team.

7. Coordinate with preK-2 teachers, special education and literacy coaches in your school or district.

Develop a consistent approach to handwriting for young children in your school or district. What resources will you use?

8. Read about Growth Mindset and the power of how we talk to children and create a plan.

Read excerpts from *Choice Words* by Peter Johnston (Stenhouse, 2012); pages 172-173 from *Kindergarten Writing and the Common Core* by Nellie Edge, 2015; and the pages on *How to Talk to Children about Their Handwriting* in the Teacher’s Guide to *Kindergarten-Friendly Handwriting, Word Work and Phonics Skills*. Study documents and books about Growth Mindset. Create a list of empowering ways to talk about student handwriting progress. Stress that *hard work is valued* in your classroom. Hold high expectations. *Praise effort, hard work, and movement toward a handwriting goal—NOT how smart children are!*

9. Provide ABC Brain Exercises for harder-to-accelerate learning.

Notice which children will benefit from more intentional ABC work for quick visual retrieval of letters from long-term memory. Work with intervention team. Use ABC Phonics Play Dough Mats. (Free on Nellie Edge TpT Store)

10. Read *Visible Learning for Teachers: Maximizing Impact on Learning* by John Hattie (Routledge, 2012)

Discuss how you will use the practices shared in this Nellie Edge Online Seminar to make the learning of efficient handwriting practices visible for each student and their parents beginning with name writing. How will you involve students in self-evaluation? What is your plan to celebrate mastery? (See excerpts from document: *What is Your Research Base for Nellie Edge Online Seminars?*)

11. Take the Next Step to National Board Teaching Certification — Kindergarten Teachers as Researchers and Literacy Leaders: Use Self-Assessment Guidelines

- Begin gathering resources and studying the National Board Certification process.
- How will the strategies from Nellie Edge Online Seminars help take your teaching to a higher level?

National Board Certified Teachers have repeatedly told us that the philosophy strategies shared in Nellie Edge Live and Online Seminars helped prepare them for the NBCT process!

Nellie Edge Seminars helped mold me into the accomplished teacher I am today. I became a Nationally Board Certified Teacher because of the type of classroom and teaching style I have. I wouldn’t have this style without Nellie Edge! –Katy Anholt, NBCT

Choose any one suggestion to develop an in-depth practicum or any combination of meaningful projects that would allow you to apply the skills shared in this seminar in the most useful and relevant way. How can you use the content of this Nellie Edge Online Seminar to make your teaching more effective and powerful to the lives of your students? What do you want to be doing in your classroom one week and one month from now as a result of this seminar? Create a spreadsheet.

Handwriting practice is woven into authentic writing experiences that have meaning to the child — NOT isolated drill!

Earn Graduate-Level Units with Nellie Edge Online Seminars and Workshops

Nellie Edge Online Seminars (NEOS) and Live Workshops is pleased to partner with the University of the Pacific to provide professional development participants the opportunity to earn graduate-level university credits. Complete a seminar or workshop and opt to register for 1, 2, or 3 graduate-level professional development semester credits. These semester credits are designed for licensure renewal and salary step increases only. The cost of graduate-level credits is separate from the online seminar/workshop registration fee.

At just \$62 per unit, all University of the Pacific courses offered through Nellie Edge are graded, graduate-level semester, professional development courses, designed as professional growth for teachers and educators.

HOW IT WORKS:

1. Complete an NEOS or live workshop.
2. Upon completion of seminar, register for 1, 2, or 3 credits (choose how many credits you need).
3. Complete practicum requirements based on the information you learn.

The University of the Pacific is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, and all courses will appear on an Official Transcript from the Registrar's Office at UOP. Participating in a Nellie Edge professional development is a prerequisite to the course enrollment(s). Some school districts may require pre-approval prior to enrollment. It is your responsibility to know your district's policies.

Course Requirements:

There are only two requirements for the awarding of each credit:

1. Self-Created Time Log: Create a PDF or Word document including a self-created time log documenting the time you spend creating curriculum, activities, projects, strategies, or techniques inspired by a Nellie Edge Online Seminar or workshop. Creating your own log gives you the freedom of documenting all the time and effort you will dedicate to completing your coursework requirements. Your log must be specific and include dates and accomplishments. For each graduate-level credit, document 15 hours of involvement. All your coursework participation must be away from professionally paid hours. (See Log Example.)

Whether you spend time brainstorming new ideas, participating in or reviewing seminars or workshops, creating new Nellie Edge curriculum, researching, reading, typing your reports, editing parent letters, reviewing materials/resources, or composing notes, you are able to document all the professional time that you invest enhancing your professional growth. You may also backdate your log to include previously developed teaching techniques or activities inspired by Nellie Edge professional development or weekly blogs that expand the PD content.

2. Choose EITHER (a) a Nellie Edge Practicum Project or (b) a Reflection Paper:

- a. Read "Nellie Edge Practicum Suggestions." From this list, choose the most practical, meaningful projects that would take your teaching to a higher level. Summarize the projects you have completed in one page and include samples (photos or copies of developed resources).
- b. For each graduate-level unit, type a 3-page, single-spaced narrative report summarizing your overall experience of creating and/or developing new ideas inspired by Nellie Edge Online Seminars. You may modify, change, or adapt any ideas to meet your professional needs. The culminating goal of this report is to demonstrate how the seminars or workshops have enhanced and empowered your professional development.

Coursework Submission: Coursework can be submitted up to 6 months from registering, and extensions are always granted upon request. You may also submit your coursework earlier if needed.

The true course ending date that will appear on your transcript will reflect the date your coursework was received.

Completed coursework should be saved as a PDF, JPEG, or Word document and include the following:

1. **Title page** with your last name, first name, course number and title, number of units, last 4 digits of SSN, and course beginning/ending date.
2. **Self-created time-log** documenting 15 hours per unit with dates and accomplishments. Include the total number of hours calculated for all coursework. (See Log Example below.)
3. **Practicum Projects or Reflection Paper(s)** summarizing how Nellie Edge Online Seminars or live workshops enhanced your professional growth.

Email your completed coursework to: coursework@teacherfriendly.com

Please include in the subject line: Nellie Edge Coursework Submission (course #)

You may not submit your coursework as a Google doc. We are unable to accept coursework that requires our office to request permission to access documents.

Log Example: It may be that you require more or less time completing your own personal activities and/or projects, and that's why we have left it to you to decide how you manage your time.

Date	Objective/Accomplishments: Implement Nellie Edge Heart Word Program	Hours
4/21	Reviewed MasterClass Intensive, self-assessment guidelines, practicum projects, and "What Is Your Research Base?" PEDU 9009: Activities to Accelerate Learning	3.0
4/22	Defined and organized on paper the most meaningful, practical projects that will make my teaching more powerful. Collaborated with colleagues and mentors.	2.0
4/24	Merged Nellie Edge Heart Word list with district first grade sight word list.	2.0
4/25	Created "heart word" props... (e.g. word wall; 3 sizes of posters)	10.0
5/9	Created floor charts; notebook charts; dictionary pages... Ordered... Printed, cut out, mounted and laminated, ...	10.0
5/23	Developed assessment documents; edited parent letters; planned Parents as Partners program	10.0
6/6	Converted Sing, Sign, Spell, and Read! CD to chosen medium; learned the SSS&R songs; obtained supplies, printed "I Can Read" Notebook pages, and heart word cards	5.0
6/15	Copied samples or took photos from each of the practicum pieces to submit; wrote 1-page summary of practicum	3.0
	Total hours of involvement: 15 hours per credit	45.0

Contact Information:

Mail all registrations and payments to:
 Professional Development Programs,
 University of the Pacific | Benerd College
 729 West 16th Street, Ste. B-3
 Costa Mesa, CA 92627
 (949) 646-9696
 ecg1@ecg1.net

For all registration confirmation and tuition/billing questions:

University of the Pacific Business Office
 (800) 959-5376 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Pacific Time

PLEASE COMPLETE FORM & PRINT CLEARLY
UNIVERSITY OF THE PACIFIC



Attach Your Check Here
or provide credit card information:

CHECK ENCLOSED - PAYABLE TO UNIVERSITY OF THE PACIFIC

VISA OR MASTERCARD NUMBER

EXPIRATION DATE: — Charge \$ _____ to my credit card.
"Required to Process" month year

Signature _____ RECEIVED BY EMAIL
(\$25 Fee for returned checks)

Post-baccalaureate semester units of credit from University of the Pacific, University College. Professional Development Courses are for graduate participants who are NOT pursuing an advanced degree at UOP. Acceptable where local districts approve and applicable to state licensing where authorized. Tuition fees are nonrefundable. UOP is fully accredited by WASC.

REGISTRATION FORM

Highest Degree earned _____ From _____

Previously enrolled in Professional Development from UOP? YES NO

PLEASE TYPE, OR PRINT NEATLY
WITH A DARK BLACK OR BLUE PEN



District: _____ (NO Abbreviations)

Enrollment Date	Completion Date
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COURSE NUMBER:

COURSE TITLE:

S.S.# HM: BIRTH DATE
 WK:
 NAME
 LAST FIRST M.I.

AREA CODE & PHONE NUMBER

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP -

E-mail Address _____

Please enroll me in:

Number of Semester Units of Credit.....

Fee Per Unit.....

Tuition Submitted....

To Email Registration Form:

Step 1: Download and Save the blank PDF Registration Form to your desktop. Do not type directly onto the Registration Form. First, make sure the Registration Form is saved to your desktop.

Step 2: Reopen the saved registration form onto your desktop and type in all the requested information.

Step 3: Save the completed Registration Form to your desktop and email as an attachment to:

info@teacherfriendly.com

Please put in the subject line: "Nellie Edge Registration"

After receiving your Registration Form, we will send you a confirmation email. Please allow a few business days to receive your confirmation.

To Mail Registration Form

Step 1: Download and Save the blank PDF Registration Form to your desktop. Do not type directly onto the Registration Form. First, make sure the Registration Form is saved to your desktop.

Step 2: Complete the form and click the button above or select "File>Print" to print your document. Do not select "Fit to Page" as the entries will not line up in the form, instead select "Actual Size."

Step 3: Mail printed Registration Form to our mailing address:

**Professional Development Programs
University of the Pacific/Benerd College
729 West 16th St. Suite B-3
Costa Mesa, CA, 92627**

Make checks payable to: University of the Pacific.

After receiving your Registration Form, we will send you a confirmation email. Please allow a few business days to receive your confirmation.