Writing Portion of Application to the Doctoral Program in Language Arts and Literacy

PURPOSE OF THE WRITING SAMPLE:

The purpose of this writing sample is to determine how well you write an analytical, argumentative essay that expresses your point of view on a topic of significance relative to education. The task asks you to identify a significant problem and propose a viable solution to it. The problem/issue that you choose to discuss is guided by the directions of the prompt that you select to use for this task.

DIRECTIONS TO THE APPLICANT:

In the section below, you will find 3 prompts for you to choose from for this task. Please select only 1 prompt for this task, and identify which prompt you will be using.

Your response should be approximately 5 pages in length, and it should do the following:

1) Clearly identify the problem, issue or concern that you will focus on in the writing.
2) Indicate the perspective (your role) from which you are responding to the issue or concern.
3) Indicate the your point of view on the problem, issue or concern clearly
4) Analyze the problem, issue or concern through careful argumentation with reasons and examples to support what you say.
5) Clearly indicate your proposed solution to the problem, or how the issue or concern may be addressed, and by whom.
6) Please be sure to edit your response carefully for organization, and copy editing concerns.

The Prompts

Prompt 1:

From your professional experience as a classroom teacher, reading teacher specialist, or language arts professional, identify an issue or concern that you believe is a significant problem for school districts and propose a solution to the problem. In your response, describe the problem, indicate its significance, state a point of view that you hold that influences your proposed solution to the problem. Show through careful analysis why your proposed solution is a viable one.

OR

Prompt 2:

From your reading of professional articles, materials, or reports (National or otherwise), identify an issue or concern that you believe is a significant problem for educational institutions (elementary or
secondary schools, colleges and universities, professional agencies and organizations) and propose a solution to the problem. In your response describe the problem, indicate its significance, state a point of view that you hold that influences your proposed solution to the problem. Show through careful analysis why your proposed solution is a viable one.

OR

Prompt 3:

From your experience as a citizen in a democracy such as the US and with regard for how the US needs to be part of a global community, identify an issue or concern that you believe is a significant problem for our Departments of Education (State, Federal or Local Levels) and propose a solution to the problem. In your response, describe the problem, indicate its significance, state a point of view that you hold that influences your proposed solution to the problem. Show through careful analysis why your proposed solution is a viable one.

REMEMBER TO PROOFREAD YOUR RESPONSE FOR COHERENCE, EDITORIAL CONCERNS AND ADEQUACY FOR RESPONDING TO THE PROMPT THAT YOU CHOSE.