



# edTPA Guide

edTPA stands for Educative Teacher Performance Assessment. The edTPA is a performance-based assessment that is subject-specific for education majors. It includes three tasks: planning, instruction, and assessment. The instruction portion also includes video recording of a candidate's teaching. Teacher candidates must pass the edTPA in order to gain licensure in the state of Illinois. The edTPA is completed during a teacher candidate's student teaching semester. The edTPA allows teacher candidates to demonstrate their knowledge and skills required to help all students learn in their classroom.

## Tips for scoring well on the edTPA:

### **Tip #1: Manage your time.**

Do not procrastinate! You must work regularly to ensure you have time to revise and edit your work. The average edTPA takes two months to complete. Break down the tasks into smaller segments in order to use your time efficiently.

### **Tip #2: Read and respond carefully.**

Read and respond to every part of every prompt. There may be conjunctions (“and”, “or”) in the prompts. Make sure you elaborate on every section of each prompt. Read and re-read your answers. Do your responses answer every question in the prompt? If not, add more evidence and elaborate on your teaching.

### **Tip #3: Pay attention to verbs in the prompts.**

If it asks you to describe, tell about what you did. If it asks you to explain, give more details and reasons for your decisions. Use descriptive and analytical writing. Descriptive writing is logical and well-ordered. Analytical writing consists of explanations and interpretations based on your response.

### **Tip #4: Move beyond telling what you are doing in your classroom.**

Your responses should show you understand how your students learn. Reflect on your teaching practices and what you have learned by planning, instructing, and assessing your students.

### **Tip #5: Provide specific examples to support your reasoning.**

Do not simply repeat the prompt—include evidence and several examples from your teaching to answer the prompt. Reference research and theories of teaching when prompted. Explain why you did something based on research and theory. Cite evidence (lesson plans, assessments, etc.) to support your claims.

**Tip #6: Think about the context of the prompt.**

Reflect on your experience teaching to answer the question. Although prompts seem to repeat themselves throughout the edTPA, each is asking you to look at different aspects of your teaching.

**Tip #7: Refer to the rubrics often.**

Have the rubric out next to you while you are writing a section. Use specific language from the rubrics so you are showing the scorers that you can demonstrate their expectations.

**Tip #8: Treat each prompt individually.**

Respond as is needed for each prompt. You will feel like you are constantly repeating yourself, that's okay. The questions are often similar. Do not worry about sounding repetitive.

**Tip #9: Keep all responses within the prompt brackets.**

[Response will appear like this.] Writing outside of brackets will not be scored.

**Tip #10: Write [N/A] if there is a prompt you do not have a response to.**

Scorers will assume blank responses were forgotten, which is not the impression you want to give.

**Tip #11: Refer to your video.**

Use evidence from the video when answering prompts—include the clip number and time stamps. Elaborate on evidence shown in video clips to show you understand how your students learn.

**Tip #12: Ask for feedback.**

Ask for feedback from a fellow teacher candidate to make sure that your responses are as thorough as possible. Have them read your responses to ensure they are clear to another reader.

**Tip #13: Read all of your writing out loud.**

This will help you catch typos and unclear sentence structure.

**Tip #14: Remember that you are not expected to be a master teacher.**

The ability to reflect on your teaching abilities and ways you can improve is an important skill for all teachers.



## edTPA Checklist

Before you submit your tasks, make sure you have all of the required materials. Requirements may vary based on content area, but the edTPA generally requires these main things:

Task	Did I Double Check That...	Ready to Upload & Submit!
Planning Commentary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ I responded to every prompt</li> <li>⇒ All of my responses are within the brackets</li> <li>⇒ I am within the page limit/requirement</li> </ul>	
Instruction Commentary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ I responded to every prompt</li> <li>⇒ All of my responses are within the brackets</li> <li>⇒ I am within the page limit/requirement</li> </ul>	
Assessment Commentary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ I responded to every prompt</li> <li>⇒ All of my responses are within the brackets</li> <li>⇒ I am within the page limit/requirement</li> </ul>	
1-2 video clips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ My video is free of any school identifiers (school logos, lanyard with school name on, etc.)</li> <li>⇒ My focus learner(s) is seen in the video</li> <li>⇒ The video segment(s) are not edited</li> <li>⇒ The audio in my video is clear</li> </ul>	
3-5 lesson plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ The lesson plans all use the same format/template</li> <li>⇒ The lessons are clearly numbered in the order they occur</li> </ul>	
Lesson materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ The materials (worksheets, rubrics, etc.) are labeled for which lesson they correspond to</li> </ul>	
Sample of student work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ The students' last name are not visible on the work</li> </ul>	
Sample of your feedback to student	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ It is clear what the feedback refers to (a specific section, problem, etc.)</li> </ul>	
Data Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Student goals are clearly listed</li> <li>⇒ How the data was obtained (test, homework, etc.) is clearly listed</li> <li>⇒ Scores are clear and easy to follow</li> </ul>	

**Further Assistance:** For more detailed help or if you have questions, visit the Writing Center located in the Lewis University Library or call 815-836-5427.

**Sources Consulted:** edTPA.com, pearsonassessments.com, passededtpa.com