**Reflection Process**

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Adapted from The Principal Portfolio, 2nd Edition (2000) by G. Brown and B. Irby

*Artifact: Identify the assignment. (Optional) Include any documents that support your completion of the assignment (documents may be scanned).*

008.6: Interview an educational diagnostician regarding the roles and responsibilities. Critique the appraisal/evaluation process for the educational diagnostician in relation to the written job description.

*Describe: Describe the findings for the assignments.*

Diagnosticians assess and diagnose the learning problems of students. We review academic records and obtain information from teachers as well as parents, and administer various cognitive and achievement tests. Through the assessment process, we determine if a child has a learning disability or other condition that may be impacting learning. A full and individual evaluation (FIE) report is written documenting the results. The FIE is used to determine if a child has a disability and, if so, the nature and extent of the need for special education and related services.

*Analyze: a. Describe the importance of the findings for the assignment.*

. For some reason, I thought that diagnosticians primarily administered tests. Although the tests are a very important part of the assessment process, I believe how the results are used to create an individualized education program for the child is most important. This is done during an ARD/IEP meeting, which stands for Admission, Review, and Dismissal/ Individual Education Program. This is the Texas name for the meeting of a group of people who develop an IEP for the student. Teachers, parents, a diagnostician or other special education specialists, and a school administrator meet at least once a year to review the student’s progress based on his or her IEP.

*b. Include connections to your 5 year goals or desired position.*

In becoming an educational diagnostician, my interpretation of evaluation results and developing recommendations and strategies is vital to the development of IEP annual goals.

*c. Compare/contrast elements in your findings to your experiences or previous knowledge.*

My experiences and previous knowledge has been enhanced by my education, research in the case studies I have reviewed, and direct on the job training with special education children.

*Appraise: Critique or describe whether any of your findings were beneficial to you or not.*

My findings are beneficial to me as a future diagnostician.

*Transform: a. Describe any future ideas or insights you gained.*

I learned how professional development can further your career.

*b. Describe future plans for use of the ideas presented, including any changes in your current practices or, describe how the information confirmed your current practices and/or beliefs.*

As a teacher, my goal is to make sure IEPs are measurable, obtainable, and focus on what students need to be taught. I can only benefit my students more if I attend relevant professional developments and implement the findings in my classroom.