



(Name)

**HISTORY OF AMERICAN EDUCATION
TED 400**

Please place your initials in the space provided to verify that you've completed this important foundational work in historical foundations of education.

- AE I've attended the lecture/discussion on *An Historical Overview of the History of Education* and read the accompanying handout.
- AE I have viewed the documentary titled *Brown Vs. Board of Education: Part of the Series on Supreme Court Decisions That Changed the Nation*
- AE I have read the comprehensive article *Brown v. Board of Education: An American Legacy* by Brian Willoughby in *Teaching Tolerance Magazine*, Spring 2004.
- AE I have viewed the documentary *Eyes on the Prize - America's Civil Rights Movement 1954-1985 (PBS)*
- AE I have viewed the historical books and papers of a teacher - Grace Ott West (Dr. Sapp's Grandmother) from **100 years ago** to look for similarities and differences to education today.
- AE I have viewed the documentary on *No Easy Walk - 1961-1963 (Episode 4 of Eyes on the Prize by PBS)*
- AE After learning about the history of American schooling and generating a set of comprehensive questions in class, I have interviewed an educator (preferably a wise-elder/retired teacher) to get a deeper and more personal view of the history of schooling from those around me who have lived it.

Please paste your Historical Blog post of that interview in the space below. Last of all, upload this document to your TED 400 Taskstream account.

For our History Blog, I had the opportunity to interview my 82-year-old grandmother. She grew up in Los Angeles and attended Catholic school all the way through her senior year. During our conversation, we focused on her elementary school days, or “grammar school,” as she calls it, since this is the grade-level I will be teaching.

The first question I asked was her favorite subject and why. She shared how music was special in her household, so she also loved learning about music in school. It makes sense that her favorite teacher was her music teacher too. At her grammar school, the teachers were all nuns, since it was a catholic school. Her favorite teacher, the music teacher, was Sister Cecilia. The main reason Sister Cecilia was her favorite teacher was because she was not rigid like the other nuns. My grandma described Sister Cecilia as having a positive attitude and a progressive mind.

My grandmother also shared that she believes her schooling experience was different from the experience of students who went to public school. When it came to discipline, the nuns were very strict, but never resorted to spanking or any physical punishment. Often, the disciplinary action was making students stand facing a wall, not being able to participate in activities, or the threat of expulsion. Another thing she mentioned is parents had a “teachers are always right attitude.” This meant that if the child got in trouble at school, the parents would most often side with the teacher. An interesting rule she had through her K-12 schooling was that makeup was not allowed.

The focus in the curriculum was on Language Arts and History. Something specific they focused on was geography, especially within the United States. When I asked my grandma what resources they would use for assignments, she shared that Encyclopedias were the biggest resource. Some families would have a set of Encyclopedias at home, as an Encyclopedia salesman would sell them door to door. If you didn't have one at home, they could also be accessed at the library.