

Safety Audit and Essay

GUIDELINES

Using the instrument called “Health & Safety Fact Sheet K-12 Science Checklist,” critically explore aspects of safety in each of your student teaching placements.

Please submit the checklist² and an overview of your understandings of the importance of safety in the science classroom (not to exceed five double-spaced pages).

Specifically, include:

- A description of the process of conducting the audit, your findings, and implications for future practice. Include comparisons from your previous placement if you find them to be interesting or relevant to your consideration of future practice.
- A description of your understanding of the legal and ethical responsibilities of science teachers for the welfare of their students, the proper treatment of animals, and the maintenance and disposal of materials (NSTA 9a).
- A description of your knowledge of and experiences with safe and proper techniques for the preparation, storage, dispensing, supervision, and disposal of all materials used in science instruction (NSTA 9b).
- A description of your knowledge of and experiences with emergency procedures, safety equipment, and safety procedures for the activities and abilities of your students (NSTA 9c).
- (If applicable to your discipline) A description of how you are to treat all living organisms in the classroom or found in the field including the legal restrictions on their collection, keeping and use (NSTA 9d).

This audit and essay can be submitted via email at any time. It must be submitted no later than **the last week of November**.

² You can assure your cooperating teacher that this task is in no way meant to be an evaluation of their school or classroom. Instead, it is a very important exercise for each of you to have in order to find, identify, evaluate and document classroom safety preparedness. One day soon you will each be responsible for these factors in your own classroom. Feel free to ask your CT for guidance in this task if you would like.