Mathematics 3 (BA3 Primary Teacher Education) (Terms 1 and 2)

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This year, you are asked to think more deeply about mathematics, reflecting on what you have seen on placement and how your understanding is developing on campus. With an emphasis on developing your understanding and pedagogy in preparation for your first classroom, you will be required to think critically about the subject, which will support you in engaging with your assignment.

Your assignment requires you to identify critical issues in mathematics teaching and learning. These issues will be ones that have significance to you (i.e. you have seen these to be issues when out on placement or through discussion in campus sessions). Crucially important is that you engage critically with the materials you read - recognising that one journal article or one book is one opinion. Just as there is no one resource that is perfect in maths, there is no one article/book that will fulfil all of your needs. For example, if I decided to write about mastery, I might believe that it involves workbooks for the class, particularly if that's what the scheme of work provides. Now, I know that I could easily find written materials to back this up but is it really the best way to teach for mastery or is it just what we're seeing more and more of in schools? My assignment would, therefore, need me to be critical: to explain why worksheets are great for keeping children busy in lessons but not necessarily great for learning (with evidence to back this up from academic sources). Doing this would evidence my criticality.

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