After having taken some lower level education classes, I thought that I knew pretty much everything that I needed to know, then I started taking higher leveled education classes. Higher leveled education classes are a lot more fun to take, they do not seem like they are a waste of time. These classes let college students put what they know to use, and they get a lot of field experience. There are a couple of classes that stood out the most such as, Science/Social Studies Methods, Literacy Block, and Classroom Behavioral Management. I feel that I have gotten a lot out of these classes, and I am more comfortable in certain situations.

There were some lower level education classes that I really enjoyed taking as well. Child Development, Intro to Teaching, and Exceptional Learners were three classes that were really enjoyable. Child Development helped show a better understanding of how children develop, and the stages at which they learn certain things. Intro to Teaching was a good class because it got college students out into the field right away. Exceptional Learners had a lot of important information regarding those students that have disabilities of any kind, and how to help those students.

Also, being required to observe at multiple elementary schools was very helpful. Sometimes the hours that were required could be overwhelming, but the experiences were amazing. They really help college students decide if teaching is what they really want to do. Observations start early enough that college students have time to change their major if they need to.
Science/Social Studies Methods is an exciting class to take. I did not realize how much science and social studies are ignored in schools. This class taught us how to fit these classes into a busy schedule, and how to create short and effective lesson plans. This class had a lot of hands-on activities where we would actually perform experiments, and then we actually got the lesson plans to put them in our files. Now I know how to fit these classes in, and how important they really are.

Having taken the Literacy Block has really increased my knowledge about different reading strategies, how to help struggling readers, and how to assess reading. I am now more comfortable when I am working with a student one-on-one, because I know what I should be looking for and concentrating on. By tutoring, I have seen how the student has improved and it is a great feeling to know that I have helped them. Also in this class we got the chance to tutor preschool students. This let us practice strategies that will help them later on when they do start to read.

Classroom Behavioral Management has been one of the most important and relevant classes that I have taken. I found this class to be very beneficial, and I now have a better picture of how I want to manage my own classroom. Before this class I had never really paid attention to classroom management, I was concentrating on other things. I now know how important it is to have good classroom management, and that it needs to happen right away. In this class we talked about a lot of different theorists who all have different approaches to managing a classroom. We studied all of them, and now we can take some of their ideas and use them in our own classrooms someday. One thing that we had to do in this class was to write our own discipline plan. That made us really think
about how we want to manage our classrooms. Now I have a good start on what I want my classroom to be like, and I feel more confident.

These are just a couple of the higher leveled education classes that I found to be very helpful. There are many more that also helped me, but I found these to be the most beneficial. Having taken these classes, I feel more confident in becoming a teacher and having my own classroom. I feel like I will be able to handle certain situations whether it is dealing with misbehavior or helping a struggling reader, a lot better now that I have taken these classes and have been able to experience these situations with field experiences. I feel well prepared and ready to be a teacher.