

Amanda Dennis

EDUC 301

Heather Schilling

9 November 2007

### Content and Methodology

As a child, in first grade, I had the most amazing teacher. She was ecstatic about learning, and took the opportunity to get to know each of her students. She strived to make learning fun, and left no child behind. She was and still is a model teacher, one who differentiates her instruction, and reaches out to all intelligences. It was her passion for teaching that sparked my own interest in the profession. I want to be a teacher of her disposition; I want to make learning fun, and students to be excited about school. I want to bring back inquiry and curiosity in students, and my classes here at Manchester College have helped prepare me to do so.

As a freshman, I enrolled in Introduction to Teaching, a course that taught me about the theorists Gardner and Bloom, whose ideas have followed me through my four years at Manchester College. Gardner's Multiple Intelligence Theory is essential in teaching and preparing lesson plans, just as Bloom's questions are important in engaging students in learning. Introduction to teaching set the foundation for my knowledge on education.

Exceptional Learner's was a course that solidified my interest in becoming a special educator. In this course I learned the basics of disabilities that could be present in my classroom, and ideas on how to modify the room and assignments to fit the needs of those students. Through this course and all my special education courses, I learned that

there is no solid answer on how to teach students. Every child is unique, and it is important for students with disabilities to have their education modified to meet their specific needs.

Literacy Block, as well as Corrective Reading have taught me important strategies to use in reading instruction. I have learned that comprehension is more than answering basic questions at the end of a story or chapter. Comprehension begins with metacognition, thinking about your thinking. To be a great reader students must ask questions, make inferences, and activate background knowledge. When a student relates to the text they are more likely retain the information, creating or changing their schema.

I am now enrolled in Science and Social Studies methods courses that have allowed me to see their importance in the school day. My professor has showed me how they can be integrated into other subjects, and given me ideas on how to make the subjects exciting for students. In Science she has stressed the importance of exploration, by letting students explore a theory, and then the teacher filling in the gaps. This allows students to retain so much more information than just reading material out of a book. In Social Studies methods, I have learned that the subject can be fun. Social Studies can involve drama and fun research projects. Students can experience the subject, rather than just read out of a textbook.

Classroom Behavioral Management has allowed me to study theorists such as Wong, Glasser, Gordan, and many more. All of which have important ideas on discipline in the classroom. I have been presented with ideas on how to prepare my classroom, and the importance of modeling the procedures that I will instill. I have learned ways to utilize the school day, making the most of the time that students are in the classroom. As

a future teacher, I will take bits and pieces from each theorist to create my own classroom management plan that will incorporate my personality and beliefs on teaching.

All my classes at Manchester College have played an important role in who I have become and the teacher I will be. They have opened my eyes to the dynamics of teaching. I have learned that no two students are the same, and thus differentiated instruction is essential. I have learned how children develop, and important theories that will guide me in my instruction. My classroom will be a safe place that is conducive to learning, a place where students will work together and become a community of learners. I have been given the tools to succeed as a teacher, and now I will put them to use.