Field Experience Reflection Paper
I thoroughly enjoyed the observations at all of the different schools. The special education observation was especially exciting because I want to go into special education. The special education observation was at Manchester Junior High School for my group. I originally thought I wanted to teach at the elementary level, but observing Mrs. Cassel made me not so sure about that. I don’t know if it was the way she taught or the relationship she had with her students but something about it made me be unsure about which age level I eventually want to teach. I think I am still leaning more towards the elementary level because I tend to be more myself around younger children. Mrs. Cassel was so passionate about what she does and about her students. One could tell when talking to her just how passionate she was and how much effort and time she puts into her career. My hope is that people will be able to tell how I feel about teaching from talking to me and watching me teach my students. I believe that every child deserves a chance no matter how much extra effort needs to be put in to help them to understand. While talking to Mrs. Cassel, she told us that being a special education teacher requires attitude. You have to have the right mentality, and know that some children are not going to respect you at first. Not all families are what some would call “functional” not all families are the “perfect family.” Not all children are raised to respect their elders or those that are in charge. In their eyes they don’t respect their parents so they also don’t have to respect their teachers. Special Education teachers need to have attitude to know what to say to them to make them realize that the teacher is the one in charge and that being talked to in that manner will not be acceptable. That is one area that I believe I need to work on. I tend to be more of a keep to myself kind of person. If something
bothers me I usually will not speak up until I really cannot handle it anymore. If I want to teach I will have to start telling my students what they did wrong and that it will not be acceptable behavior in my classroom.

I observed in Manchester Junior High twice. My first observation was with Mr. Webb in a 7th grade social studies classroom. Mr. Webb had a good relationship with his students. He was a little sarcastic at times but I believe a little of that is ok at the Junior high level because they are just starting to use their attitudes and you, as the teacher have to let them know that you are the boss yet at the same time keep them assured that they can come to you with any of their problems. Mr. Webb’s classroom was filled with many posters and projects. His 8th graders all had projects due that week so they had begun to bring them in and leave them in the classroom until it was time for them to be graded. I found them to be very fascinating. When I have my own classroom I plan to have at least a couple of hands on projects for my students to do. I personally learn better when I am able to actually touch something and see how it works or how it is made. Not all of my students will learn that way but I will try my best to incorporate all of the different learning styles into my lesson plans. I plan to give everyone an equal opportunity to learn to the best of their abilities. Mr. Webb’s class also had the opportunity to do extra credit on daily basis.

My second observation was at Manchester High School. I observed Mr. Schlitt’s Economics class. The students were working on a computer program called Titan. This was some kind of program where they had their own “money” and they were supposed to buy and sell stock based on the value of the stock that day or how well it was doing. The
group as a whole was in charge of decided what to do with the money and how to manage their stocks. The purpose I guess was to help them in the future when they were actually allowed to have their own stocks.

My third observation was with Mr. Eichenauer at Manchester Elementary in the fourth grade classroom. Mr. Eichenauer was very spur of the moment. He started out teaching math and then he would switch into a different subject as students would ask questions and then would transition back into math again. He was very laid back about it yet very passionate about what he does. I hope to be the same way when I become a teacher and have my own classroom. His classroom was very inviting; he had pictures of his children and his wife and posters that had to do with math. I plan to have that in my future classroom as well.

My fourth classroom observation was at Laketon Intermediate. I observed Mrs. Hanback in a higher-level reading class. Their classes are divided based on they abilities in certain subjects. There is a higher-level math class and so on and so forth. In this reading class they had to do book reports and then response journals and write how they responded to the book and what they felt about it. Their book reports had to be presented in front of the class. They were able to get used to speaking in front of a class early on in their education. I plan to have that in my classroom too, so that my future students won’t have anxiety in speaking in front of people.