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Liberal Arts Paper
March 12th, 2007

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When I chose to come to Manchester College, I did not think that a liberal arts education would be all that different than just a normal education from any other state college. I think that as a person, the liberal arts college has made me grow and be more informed on subjects that I was not as informed on before. However, I do not believe that this liberal arts education has bettered me for teaching. I have taken many liberal arts classes while I have attended this college and yes, some have been helpful, but I believe that most of them are not all that beneficial to my education for my teaching degree.

I took Human Conflict when I was a freshman and I truly believe that this class has helped me be a better person and future teacher. In this class we learned how to deal with the different problems that some children may have, such as sexual abuse, mental abuse, or even physical abuse. It also taught us how to deal with the parents of these children. I feel that this was useful because as a teacher I will have children and parents that come from this environment or may still be in one of these environments. I think when I see this situation I will not be as shocked because I have already seen videos on how bad it may be for some people while also having been taught how to handle the situation. So I feel that this class was truly beneficial to me as a teacher.

Another class that I thought was really helpful was Intercultural Communications. I think this class was most helpful because it actually put us into the classroom. We had to go to the classroom every other week and teach anger management to the first grade

and the second grade classes. Honestly, I am sure that this might have been the most valuable class that I have taken yet towards my education degree. One thing that I have always been scared of in my classroom is how to manage the children and how angry they get towards each other. The program that we taught our children really did work. What we did was go into first and second grade classrooms and we taught them anger management statements. Our class taught the children how to handle disagreements with other students, teachers, and even their parents. We went into the classroom four different times with four different lessons that reinforced the first lesson that we taught. I currently work at Latch Key (day care for the school age children in North Webster, IN.), and I have every intention to use this with the children there, as well. So I would have to say that this was a helpful a class. I believe it should be added to our curriculum.

One class that I did not believe was all that helpful was Experiencing the Arts, which is a class that teaches us about different parts of Art throughout history. I am not saying that this class is not educational, because it is. I am just saying it is not educational for teachers. I do not see where I will ever have to tell my 5-11 year olds about Picasso or any other artist for that matter. Yes, it will help with the dinner parties that I will go to later on in life, but that is not what college is about. It very well may be a valuable class, but just not valuable to teachers.

Other classes that I have taken are Asian History: Past and Present, Old Testament, Environmental Law, and State and Local Politics. I think that these classes were all good classes and I did learn something from them, but I do not believe that any of them will make me a better teacher. I went to IPFW a few months ago and I was looking over all of the classes that they had to take to get their teaching degree, and their

students are required to take a lot more education classes than what we do. I almost wonder if they will be better prepared in the classroom because of this.

I do however think that these classes have made me look differently at the world than I had before. I used to be a person who did not care about the environment (yes I know this sounds horrible), but after I took Environmental Law, I saw why there was such a reason to care. After State and Local Politics I saw how hard it is for our local government to get things done and how hard some of them work. Asian History was definitely an eye opener. I never realized how bad their lives were in the Asian countries even still to this day. I would not say that these classes are a complete waste of time, but I do believe that they almost hinder our education process of obtaining an education degree. With the education program that Manchester College has, we have to take the required education class and then when you put our Liberal Arts classes in on top of that, it makes it almost impossible for the students to take other classes that they may be interested in. At Manchester College it is really hard for an education major to have a minor and still graduate in four years. A minor in Spanish, for instance, might be really fundamental in our jobs later on in life. For many education majors, there might not have been the opportunity to have this one up on others, which in the end may cause them not to get a job that they wanted.

I am not completely against our college having liberal arts classes. I just feel that they are not completely of assistance to education majors at Manchester College. I do believe that Manchester College has a fine education system and I trust that it is more prestigious than most other colleges, but I am not sure that we need to take all of the

classes that are required of us. I believe this because I think that there are other classes out there that may be more beneficial to education majors.