

EDUC253
Reflective Essay
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Bullying is an addictive force that confused or troubled ones use against another to gain power over them and to control and manipulate them to their specific needs. ⁱⁿ Our in-class and internet sessions this year, we have focused a lot on defining what bullying exactly is and why students use it today against other innocent students. In the first sentence above, I have mentioned what my definition of bullying is according to our class discussions and sessions. In almost every school and every day another student is getting bullied and because of this many students are afraid to go to school or they are so humiliated that they have decided to take their lives in their own hands.

Before this fall semester, I had no idea what conflict mediation was and what it was intended to do. I also did not have any background or insight on how severe the issue of bullying in school's was becoming. I would have to say that I was very naive about the whole situation of bullying and in general to seeing someone get bullied in front of me. Now, when I teach in class with my kindergartners and first graders, if I see bullying I stop it or I discipline them immediately and let them know what they were doing wrong. More than anything this class, has broadened my views on bullying, how to handle it with conflict mediation and what to expect as well.

you're the great at this!

Earlier this semester my attitudes, beliefs and values about resolving conflicts were different than they are today. I remember being in junior high as a sixth and seventh grader and seeing students get bullied everyday. These students got bullied all the time, but no one ever tried to resolve it. The only time the bully/s got in trouble is when a teacher was nearby and would stop them immediately from fighting. For the most part though, these same students got picked on a daily basis and when they got to high school the effects overtook them. Many of these students had such low self-esteem and confidence, that many of them turned to drugs, dropped out of school or turned to violence and became a bully themselves, just like we had learned in class over our bully sessions. In our one internet session over the article of Brandon and Larry, it was very disturbing to read about how Larry was picked on to the point where he decided to take his own life. Brandon was never placed in a normal environment as well and was

typical pattern

always picked on, so he then turned to bullying because he had low-self esteem too.

After reading the young, gay and proud article I know now that conflict mediation is needed immediately in schools today. My beliefs were that fighting and bullying will take of themselves and that students need to stand up for themselves more often or even be able to just walk away. In my survey for finding out our natural style of dealing with conflict, I graded out to be avoiding when it came to conflict. It's hard to believe, but that is right, I hate conflicts and I will always try to avoid them for the most part. Now realizing what I saw in high school with all the students that were bullied earlier and reading that article, I know that it isn't easy for those students to walk away or stand up for themselves. What these students need is conflict mediation to help solve and resolve their problems with one another.

Great knowledge to have about most young students in the room.

I first thought conflict mediation was an easy process and if you came towards a solution between two students and if you resolved it, that was fine but if you didn't, oh well. After all the acting and role playing we did in class with conflict mediation, I still have trouble trying to do the process. It was more difficult then what I had intended it to be when we first started talking about it. When taking on a role as a student in class who was at a conflict mediation period with another student and two other teachers, I found it made me accountable for my actions and I felt better about myself that the conflict was resolved, even though I was just role playing and had no conflict at all. I think it helps the students know that people out there care about them and want to help them solve their problems, that includes the bullies and the students who are picked on.

yes!

The knowledge that I have learned in this last semester I will take forward with me in my future career as a teacher. My teaching view has broadened immensely and I could see that take affect on me when I taught my kindergartner's and first grader's in physical education class. I will try to make conflict mediation a habit in the future when it comes to having to resolve conflicts amongst students.

I've really enjoyed you in class. I wish I could have seen more of you this year! You're going to be a good teacher!