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Science Methods

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Science Day Reflection

Throughout the brainstorming process for science day, I had a million different activities rolling around in my mind. First, I thought that I would do a science trail on recycling or photosynthesis but then one day while it was raining, I had the idea of the water cycle. After I decided on the water cycle, I was conflicted on what types of activities I should do with the students. I couldn't decide if I should do activities that focused on the whole process of the water cycle or one particular phase of the water cycle. I thought that perhaps the students that I would be working with would be too old and would have already covered the whole process and would learn more by digging deeper into one topic. However, I eventually decided to cover the whole process of the water cycle. This turned out to be a good decision because the girls that I worked with had forgotten most of what they had previously learned about in class.

The creation phase of the project took the most amount of time. I had a difficult time coming up with age appropriate activities for the students. I also felt a time crunch during the creation phase and actually worked so much on my trail quest one afternoon that I forgot to take a shower! However, I absolutely loved the booklet that I created for the students as a guide. Thankfully, I had recently discovered how to use Kidspiration and created the whole booklet using this program. It allowed me to copy and paste clip

art from the internet easily and it also had a variety of clip art included with the program. I was able to figure out how to print it in color so that the booklet was more aesthetically pleasing. I felt a time crunch while creating the booklet but I enjoy working with these types of programs so I actually liked making it the best it could possibly be.

Implementing the science trail was challenging and nerve racking but I enjoyed the day. The two girls that were assigned to my group were sweet and excited to learn. They were from different schools but they were both outgoing and quickly became friends with myself, Field Biology helper, and each other. The trail quest went by with only a little complication and the girls breezed through the web quest. I think I made the web quest too easy because it only took them 15 minutes to complete. However, it was no big deal that we had extra time because I knew where I could easily get some sidewalk chalk and so the girls and I created a model of the water cycle on the sidewalk close to Garver Hall. Finally, I was glad to have the Field Biology helper simply because it was another person for the girls to chat with and get to know. The only part of having the helper that was kind of challenging was when he arrived. We had already started reading our book and gotten to know each other when he introduced himself. I think that perhaps the Field Biology helpers should start the day off with the upper classmen and maybe leave after the trail quest and before the web quest. I think this would be beneficial because when he came late, the girls were confused on his role.

I could have improved the day in three ways. First, I should have made extra steps on the web quest or had a worksheet that they had to fill out while they went along. The girls breezed through it so quickly and I think it could have really helped them to grasp the material. I also could have made stop number two on the science trail more

interesting some how. This was the stop where I showed the girls what condensation looked like by holding a jar of water we collected from the river over a heat source. It took awhile for the heat source to warm up and I felt like the girls were getting bored. I should have thought of this ahead of time and planned a supplemental activity. Finally, I wish I somehow could have helped the girls to dress more weather appropriate. It was cold outside and we were out there for at least an hour. I know that they should have thought of that and their parents should have helped them out, but I felt that perhaps I could have thought of this ahead of time and brought an extra sweatshirt or jacket. However, given everything that could have gone wrong, I think that all of us had a great morning!