Field Experience Reflection Paper

Professor Eastman

Introduction to Teaching

Education 111

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When I went into this class, I knew that I would have to do field experience which intrigued me. I was sure that doing field experience would be a piece of cake for me because I already knew that teaching was what I wanted to do with my life but I was also nervous because I was afraid that I would not do as well as what I was hoping to do. While doing field experience, a student who is thinking about becoming a teacher can find things that he/she may or may not want to do in their classroom. Through my observations the past few weeks, I realized that one teacher in particular had most of the things that I would want to do in the classroom. This teacher was a secondary English teacher which is what I intend on becoming.

When I walked into her classroom at Manchester Jr. /Sr. High, I knew right away that I had chosen the right career for myself. Walking into Mrs. Wise’s classroom just reinforced the fact that I found my calling. Her classroom was extremely welcoming and just made me want to learn something as soon as I walked through her door. The way she connected with her students was so inspiring and I could tell, as an observer, that Mrs. Wise would do anything for her students.

While I was in the class, they were reading *Lord of the Flies*. Two of her boys were just sitting there not doing the reading. When she and I finished talking about how her day usually goes, she walked up to them and asked them why they were not doing the assignment. The boys said that they just could not get into the book. At this
comment, most teachers would say “do it anyways” but Mrs. Wise did not. She actually did something that stunned me; she asked the boys if there was any way she could make the reading assignment more interesting for them. I think this stunned the boys as well because they had the look of disbelief on their faces and just shook their heads while telling her that they could not think of anything in particular.

However, she was not this understanding all the time. When she asked the students to go off in groups of two and read with each other, she warned them that if they did not perform the task at hand they would end up having a quiz over the reading for that night. I was positive that the students, knowing that she would quiz them, would do what they were told but they did not. After about minutes of being in groups, she called them back to their seats and told them that they were going to have a quiz the next day.

I realized, through my other days of observations, that not all teachers have that kind of connection with their students like Mrs. Wise had. While observing, I had two teachers that I really did not want to observe after the first five minutes of being in their class. With Mrs. Wise, that was not the case. I actually wanted to stay in her classroom and contribute to her class as they read the book which is one thing that I want to do for my students. I want to make class interesting enough that they want to stay longer than expected. I want to be able to have a good relationship with my students and keep them coming back to class every day with a smile on their face and an eagerness to learn.
To me, being the teacher that students talk about even after being out of high school for ten, twenty, even thirty years would be one of the greatest achievements of my career. Knowing that I have the capability of being that teacher gives me the determination to be that teacher. Mrs. Wise would definitely be a teacher that I would want to shadow again because I realized that we do have a similar CREDO. I believe that students should be the main focus of the classroom and when Mrs. Wise asked those two boys if there was anything she could do to help make the assignment more interesting, I could tell that she believed the same thing.

When challenges like the one stated above arise, I would approach it the same way Mrs. Wise did. I want to make sure my students know I do actually want to help them succeed and that they are not just another brick in the wall. I would definitely consider this a strength of mine because I have been in classes where the teacher just wants to get the lesson over with and not worry about the students who do not understand what is going on. Another strength I have is the ability to be flexible. A teacher needs to be very flexible with their schedule because sometimes you fall behind on what your agenda for the class is. Sometimes you fall behind because you miss a day of class and sometimes it is because your students are confused and need an extra class or two to have things clarified. Being able to have a flexible agenda is another way of showing your students that you do want to help them succeed.

Not only is the career of teaching a challenge but so are all of the guidelines and rules that a teacher need to follow. When it comes down to it, I think that
I would like to challenge myself in the classroom. I want to be able to grow with my students and be a successful teacher. Sometimes when a teacher challenges themselves, they learn things about themselves that they never really knew and I am always open to learning something new.