My Teacher’s Credo
By Jesse Gray
Intro to Teaching
When asked, “What made you want to be an elementary teacher?” by both friends and family I was unable to give them an answer, I just knew I wanted to teach. I have had a lot of time to think about why exactly I want to teach these past few years and I have come to a realization, I want to make a difference in these young people’s lives. When I hear about all of these children growing up in the ghettos of society, no one gives them a chance. Even future teachers see a job opening in the ghettos and run because they think it’s hopeless. Instead of running away, we as teachers need to run toward these areas to teach these children that if they try hard, they can do whatever they want. The first step I had to take was to join the education major. In my first education class (Introduction to Teaching) I learned about the five different philosophies of teaching and even took a test to see which one I was. But I’m not just one; I scored the exact same number on two different philosophies. Now that I know what the philosophies are and which ones I am, I was able to come up with even more reasons why teaching was the career for me.

My older sister works one on one with autistic children, teaching them how to read, write, talk, and so on so I’m not technically the first teacher in my family, however, my sister and I are the first ones who have gone into teaching in our family. I would have to say that a big part of me becoming a teacher was my second grade teacher, Mrs. Adams, and my high school chemistry teacher, Mr. Carson. They both demonstrated to me what a teacher should be; teachers should be able to make the classroom an enjoyable environment but at the same time teaching valuable knowledge to their students, fair and equal, strict but not mean or rude, and finally always available to help. These are some of the traits that I know I will have as a teacher. Teaching needs to be as fun for the teacher as it is for the students; if the students are having fun then they will enjoy learning and will be able to retain more knowledge. A great teacher also needs to give hope to their students about their futures. In the movie *The Truman Show*, Jim Carey’s teacher tells him that it is too late to become an explorer because everything has already been discovered. Part of teaching is giving hope. I will never give up on a student.

The five philosophies of teaching include: Perenialism, Essentialism, Progressivism, Existentialism, and Social reconstructionism. I am both a Progressivist and an Existentialist. What this means is that I am a child-
centered teacher who teaches based on what the students want to learn. I make learning active rather than passive and I teach problem solving methods. That sums up the Progressivist side of my teaching patterns, but Existentialist side allows me to focus on the experiences of the students. I also make the students ask questions, conduct inquiries and draw on their own conclusions (Parkay). These two philosophies are very student centered and not very teacher oriented. What that means is that I will pay more attention to the students and how they are doing academically than I will with my own concerns.

Being a teacher is an important career. Not only do you have to become your students’ mentor and friend, but you also have to gain the trust of your students’ parents. You must meet national and state requirements and you must do so in 180 days. As a teacher you have the ability to change lives and make an impact on each and every one of your students. I myself know that I might get assigned students who don’t have a good father figure. As their teacher I can be that student’s father figure and set a good example so that he/she might not make wrong decisions. By being this figure to my students, I can motivate them to try their hardest and keep trying their hardest their whole lives. It is because of this that I want to be a teacher. I want to come home from work every day and know that I may have touched a child’s life in such a way that will make them want to do the right thing. I want to make a difference. I want to make kids look forward to going to school rather than dreading it. I want to be that teacher that my students will remember for the rest of their lives. I will be that teacher if you will let me.

Works Cited