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Content and Methodology Paper

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Throughout my college career, because of my reflective nature, I have spent a lot of time reflecting back on my college education courses. During this reflective time, I learned how grateful I am for all of the valuable information that I have learned through all of the courses I attended. I believe that with every one of the classes has brought me wisdom that has helped me shape me into the teacher I am today. I will admit that some classes have made a larger impact on me, than others, but I do feel that they all had a special influence on me. The ones that I feel had the most positive impact would have to be Intro to Teaching, Child Development, Learners with Mild Disabilities, and Senior Methods.

All of my life I have wanted to be a teacher. I felt that I had a good idea of the time commitment required of a teacher seeing as all the women in my family are teachers. Oh was I ever wrong! During Intro to Teaching, I would have to say that this was the point that really opened my eyes. I wrote my first lesson plan as well as taught my first lesson. I had worked a lot at the local elementary schools while in high school, but never actually taught students. I never thought it would take so long to write lessons and then how to teacher the lesson to those students who do not understand the first time that you taught it to them. This class also laid the ground work for all of the other classes that I took throughout the rest of college career.

Another class that I thought was a big one that will not only help my classroom, but also help me as a parent was Child Development. In this class I learned that I can not expect the same from the younger students that I may be teaching as what I should expect from the older students. This is because their brain development is at such different places that there is no way that they could process the information in the same way. I guess this is something that should almost be common sense, but for me it just simply was not. This was the main lesson that I took from this class. During this class I also did a case study on a pre-school age child. During this case study I learned a lot about the theorist Piaget and his levels of cognitive development. I believe that every thing that I took from this class is imperative to all teachers. In order to be a good teacher you must know and understand where your students are developmentally.

Growing up I always thought I would have the perfect classroom, where every students would be at the same level. I knew this was an unrealistic thought, but still thought it. It was not until I was in Learners with Mild Disabilities, that I learned how unrealistic this thought was. In this class I learned a lot about differentiating instruction for inclusion students within my classroom. This will be quite the challenge, but I feel after this class I know how to handle it and how to give disabled students the best education possible.

The last set of classes that I found to be most important to my education would have to be our senior year methods block. Going into this block of classes, I knew I was up for quite the challenge. I accepted the challenge and I feel that I pushed myself further than I ever thought possible. I grew so much as not only a person, but a teacher during

this time. During this block of classes I really had to work on my time management, which I handled very well.

I probably found Social Studies and Science methods to be the most important of the whole block. I am a firm believer that students need to be taught science and social studies and I do not believe under any circumstances that students should not be taught these subjects. In these classes I learned how you can integrate science and social studies into math, reading, and writing. While doing this you can hit multiple standards that are required of you and teach the students multiple subjects. Because of this, I find there to be no reason for these two subjects not to be taught.

Another important class from methods would have to be Classroom Management. In this class we learned about the theorist of education. During Education Psychology we learned about these theorists as well, but never in a manageable way. In this class we learned how they can actually be used in the classroom. We learned the positives as well as the negatives of each of the theorist. I really valued this part of this class.

After my graduation this spring, I plan to take all of these skills and methods that I have learned at Manchester and implement them into my own classroom. As a teacher I know that I will never stop growing and learning, I am glad that I have the foundation that I got from Manchester College. I feel that every experience that I experienced at Manchester will make me that much better of a teacher.