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Conflict Resolution

### Position Paper

This class has been very informal and I have learned how look beyond the conflict and think of the ways of preventing the conflict from happening again. Also, I have learned from class the ability for students to work out their problems and to talk it out. Some of the experiences I have really enjoyed with this class are the online discussions, and the weeklong field experience in Fort Wayne. These are two experiences I will always remember and are what made the class successful.

The discussion boards were a great way of getting my classmates and me to interact over articles we have read or the power point we looked at. Some discussion topics that I remember were over bullying, anger, and communication skills. I thought these experiences were very rewarding. My group and I had some great discussions with these topics. One that sticks out was over the topic bullying. My group and I asked each other questions on how to prevent bullying and how do we as teachers spot bullies. These were great experiences to talk about with other young professionals. Another great thing about our discussion boards was that we all grew up with different experiences and those experiences might come up in the discussion. For example if we were to respond to bullying one of my group members might not have seen bullying in school, or another might have been the bully. With these discussions you get a full view of the topic and people's experiences can help you understand.

Another great way of viewing and getting the full experience of this class was the week long field experiences. There is no other way to simulate to the class what is really like in the classroom without being in the classroom. That's what we did; we were able to observe two different settings for two separate weeks. In my first placement which was Lindly Elementary in Fort Wayne. This school did not make AYP this school year and has more of the lower class attending. I must admit I was not excited to go to this school. It shows you cannot judge a book by its cover because I absolutely loved this school and the class I was with. This school was like nothing I have ever seen before. The students were a lot to handle but I enjoyed the challenge and got to use what I have been learning in school to use to see what works and what I still need to improve on. I had to use my conflict resolution skills when a problem was brought to my teacher's attention. A young man was talking during the pledge. I watched as she handled this problem and she explained to me what she did and why she did that. I watched as she took the student and talked to him in the hallway. She was very nice about it and asked why he was talking during the pledge and why he was not participating. She had to tell me later this has happened a lot recently. She had me take the student down to the office where he could say the pledge to me and then we would go back to class. I took him and asked him to say the pledge. He did not respond and stood there for awhile. I asked him again if he could please say the pledge for me and then we would be able to go back to class. The ladies in the office were asking me what he was supposed to do. I felt pressure when they had told me that the principal had been involved when he did not say the pledge earlier in the year. I felt the pressure to keep him informed of the problem but I wanted to respect my student. I asked my student one last time to say the pledge and then we can go back to class. The student did not reply so I asked the secretaries if he could sit and wait for the principal and say the pledge to him. I did not like

leaving my student in the office and it is a feeling I do not want to have again but if a student does not respect you as a teacher then you need to take the student to a higher authority.

I feel like this situation was very unique and may happen again but there may be no way to prevent this situation from happening again. As a teacher you need to use your principal when as a teacher you have tried to handle the situation multiple times and the student is still not responding. As a student observing it was good experience to see how my teacher went about the issue. My teacher has been teaching for over twenty years and she has lots of experience in this multi cultural school.

Conflict resolution is very important for teachers to have an understanding of the material because they will constantly be using these skills in the classroom. The play ground and when the teacher is not looking are scary places and problems can start. How the teacher resolves these problems is what makes great teachers. Great teachers resolve the problem between students in a way where they return to their mood and focus on learning and what they are doing in school that day. The best teachers are those that can keep their learning environment in check and keep the students interest in what they are learning today. These teachers understand conflict resolution.

Conflict resolution has been a very beneficial class. I have learned lots of strategies for my classroom management and gained experience and knowledge on how to handle situations where students are in a conflict. I have grown more comfortable in the classroom and even more comfortable in my ability to step in and help students resolve an issue.