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ED200 – Introduction to Education

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Assignment Write-Up

When I first heard about this interterm class, I will admit that I was quite nervous; stepping into a classroom where I knew nobody seemed to be a pretty scary ordeal. As I readied for this adventure, I made sure to come in with an open mind. Now, reflecting back on my three weeks in the classroom, I have learned more about classrooms than I would ever learn from a book. There are many priceless tidbits that I am taking away from this experience.

One of the things that I saw almost constantly was that teaching is not an 8-5 employment – there are countless extra hours that are put into the job. Mrs. Molzahn, in addition to being the English and the Spanish teacher, was also the yearbook overseer, the KAYS sponsor, offered college classes in the evenings, and was a devoted mother on top of all of that. I saw as she struggled under the immense workload that was dealt to her, but she never once complained about it, she always had a smile on her face. While I realize that my future will be much like this, with tiring hours and an abundance of work, I realize that it will be all worth it.

Another thing that I was made aware of was that teaching is not the only thing that goes into a school – there are so many other factors that go into it as well. Through the inclusion and diversity exercises, I was able to see another side to teaching that some do not normally see, and there is much work to be done there as well. To make sure that inclusion happens, there are so many people that must be willing to work together. It is not merely in inclusion that teachers must be willing to work together either. I saw many instances where it took teacher collaboration to have success. While I know that some of the teachers do not get along very well, they must put their differences aside to problem solve, otherwise things would not run smoothly.

Another thing that I learned through this experience is that, although some kids will give you problems, teaching is ultimately worth it. When a teacher gets to experience the joy of a child learning, especially enjoying learning, that is the best feeling. There were many of those moments throughout my classroom experience where I got to see this, and it certainly encouraged me to stick it out.

I felt that the papers were very helpful, not only to keep me on task in my observations, but they also gave me specific things to focus on while in the classroom. They covered topics from assignments to inclusion and everything in between, and I feel that I learned exponentially better with such a tight task. It was also nice to be able to include some of my own feedback within the papers, for I had seemingly relevant comments to make.

Overall, this experience was one that I will use for the rest of my career. Not only did I get a specific look into how a school is run, teachers are hired, and lesson plans are made, but I got to interact as well as teach some wonderful students in the process.