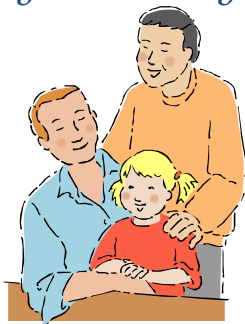


# The End to the Beginning

Honestly, while typing out this last journal I can't help but feel a huge sense of accomplishment. The rest of the journal will be spoken from my heart because this class has left a huge impact on me and the way I view education. Their was so much involvement and dedication in your class I can't help but feel proud of myself for completing numerous projects and readings. During the first weeks



of class I must admit for I was a bit over whelmed. What's a webquest? How does Webct work? Online deadlines, numerous class presentations, lesson plans, fieldwork, so many topics were presented to us. Flustered was a feeling indefinitely. As a class we have gone through so much and we genuinely feel like a big



family. We have overcome and embarked upon projects and assignments together. We all were there for each other and helped each other out tremendously. I have so much respect and appreciation for all my peers. This class really enabled us to get to know everyone on a personal as well as educational level. This

semester has helped me grow so much as a person. I remember how I entered the class as an intimidated shy girl that kept most of her opinions to herself. I was so scared of Webct and the technology aspect of this course. Ironically that is what I am most proud of tackling and mastering. Now I can navigate through Webct like it's in my back yard.

I admire how Dr. Smirnova doesn't have us buy textbooks she doesn't assign chapter readings threatening us with tests. As a future teacher I have learned that if you supply your student's with interesting and useful information they will put forth the effort because I have. Honestly I saw how much work Dr. S put into webct and finding sites and outlining different topics for us all. She inspired me to put forth the effort because she showed me her dedication to teaching. Presentation means a lot. I have learned that. Now I understand that the way you present and engage your students concerning topics is very important. You need to grab their attention right away so they stay entertained with information. Give them a reason to pay attention and learn this information. Focus their attention and be rationalizing with them. As a teacher I am



not their to or trick my student's I need to provide them with the best learning environment possible. Dr. S illustrated that as she understood our lifestyles and was flexible she admitted that she wanted to see us all thrive and put forth our best work and she wanted to make sure everyone was given ample time for every assignment because she truly and honestly wants her student's to succeed. That part of the course surprised me the most because she was very flexible and understanding and that is one thing I have taken with me for when I become a teacher.

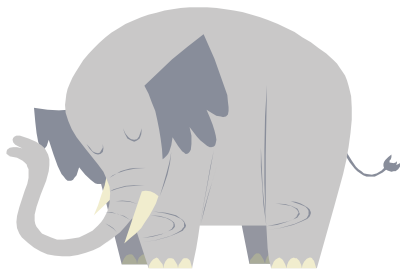
The biggest impression or effect that has changed my views of teaching is that I never expected to learn as much through group work as I did. I LOVE group work. By being in a group you learn so much about a person and you form strong bonds. My reason for

choosing the social interactive model twice while planning out my lesson plans is because group work, really works. Personally, I feel it is because you talk out loud, your ideas are heard and discussed and a combination of people's best work is pushed through to form group projects.



What has made me *think* is the tone of the classroom. I enjoy how the desks are arranged circular where it feels homey as if everyone is on the same level. There are no corners or points. You always welcome everyone's opinion and response to ideas and topics. I honestly just felt a sense of comfort and I most definitely do not feel that way in every college setting. You provide everyone with a great deal of resources and information so maybe it was because I felt confident in answering your questions but whatever it was I definitely thought a lot about my responses because I looked forward to contributing to our classes.

My fieldwork was in a second grade setting and direct instruction works but the social interactive model worked better. They loved being in groups. The students told me that they enjoyed presenting their group work to the class. They felt they needed to do a good job so the other student's could learn. This class has taught me much about anticipatory sets and how not to use an



when teaching the color grey. I understand that they need to be short yet effective. As a teacher it will be my job to use simple methods that work and I will have to research what can and will work. We practiced many focuser's throughout the year such as shutting off the lights and clapping. These methods were implemented within my fieldwork.

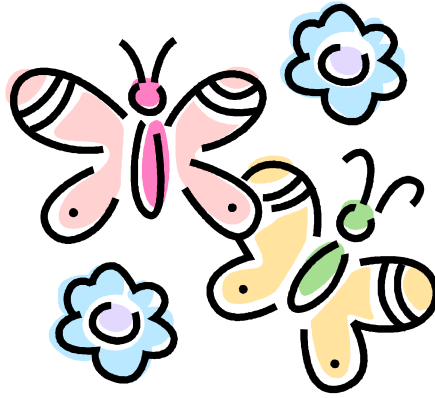
As I am typing this journal I am reflecting on my experiences but I am also thinking how I am one step closing to reaching my

*dream of teaching. I am very close for I student teach in the fall. It is less than one year away and I have been thinking about this for as far back as I can remember. I have grown so much as a student and that correlates to growing as a teacher because very soon now as time approaches Amanda Conklin will turn into Miss Conklin. *Methods of Teaching* has taught me fundamental methods and strategies that will help me when planning is essential within the classroom. I was given ample knowledge and resources to create educational plans for my students. My personality went through a*



*metamorphoses however as I reached metacognition. The more I learned in this class the more confident I became. I am confident now that I have what it takes to be a great teacher. I have always had the passion for it but you gave me the tools and the attitude.*

*I have no one to blame for this metamorphoses but everyone my classmates, Dr. S, my cooperating fieldwork teacher, the second grade students, and me as well. So many people contributed to my new found confidence in myself in being a great teacher. I worked hard this semester in *Methods* along side my classmates. We helped each other through every assignment. We were up late chatting, conversing through e-mails, text messaging, and even early library meetings. A special thanks goes out to Mark and Brett too! Dr. S was always patient and supportive guiding me along with the rest of the students through hard crunch times. Mrs. Hessberger my cooperating fieldwork teacher has seen my growth for I have done fieldwork with her from two years prior. She is a fantastic example to follow and strive to be like. She encourages me and speaks to me that she sees true potential and believes I am what young children need. If that doesn't give you inspiration to keep going I don't know what will. The second grade students do of course leave an impression on my heart. I honestly think that I will always remember the first lesson*



that I ever taught. I had *so many thoughts* were running through my head. When I was finished Mrs. Hessberger said ok, you got it babe you're a natural. I was relieved to discover she was confident in me and that she thought I left a good impression on the student's. The student's touched me and really gave me motivation to study methods and strategies that would help me reach each and every student so they could reach their potential. I loved the classroom setting. I was scheduled to do ten hours of fieldwork as the requirement entailed but I ended up with 26 because I genuinely loved the class. I love every aspect of teaching and adore being in the classroom with the students. Mrs. Hessberger welcomed me in the classroom as much as I was available because she said that I was a valuable asset and she involved in every detail



of the classroom . I had never been so engulfed in teacher duties before. Mrs. Hessberger said the student's would ask her in the morning is Miss Conklin coming in today? It felt good to know that they were looking forward to my appearances as much as I was to theirs. There are just some things that textbooks can't teach you and seeing a child's face light up because they have finally grasped a concept because of the way you had just turned the light bulb on above their head is indescribable. I look forward to visiting Mrs. Hessberger's class over the break. I was invited to the Christmas

party and can't wait to share that memory with the students for I am baking them brownies.

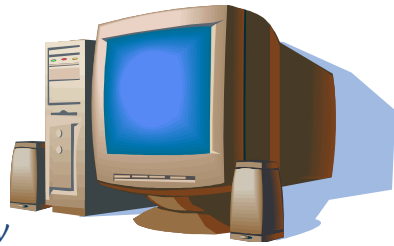
My passion is education and children. I plan on improving always for there is always room for improvement. As an educator it will be my responsibility to stay on top of new found technology and topics. As an educator I will be constantly growing and discovering what works and what doesn't. I need to keep an open mind and be flexible. With every passing school year my classroom will be filled with numerous diverse students and it will be my job to investigate



their learning

I expected a textbook, pop quizzes, assigned homework, frequent tests and term papers. Boy was I ever wrong! I'm not going to diss on every other professor that teachers like that because to each is it's own but usually I don't remember half the things I learned from those types of learning environments. The reason why I feel as if I have learned so much in Methods is because I feel I have reached metacognition. I was able to learn material well enough to teach it to my peers and Dr. S explained to us that if we were successful in that we had a 95% chance of remembering all of our attained information. I will take with my Dr. S' learning style and I will strive to incorporate her learning environment into my classroom. It really works because I remember topics with my experiences in my classes. I can remember which topics I taught in which groups. She also had us reflect on our experiences and I tend to recall things better if I write them down.

Basically throughout this semester I have learned more about myself and my capabilities then ever before. If you ever have a student that is nervous and scared about their up coming semester with you send them to me. I was intimidated by the syllabus and



*technology . I pushed through with your support and understanding. I have learned that I have to find my way, my learning style and embrace it. Everyone is unique and the best way to learn is to ask questions don't be shy. Search webct and embrace the resources. The internet is your friend, use it! Share your opinions and interpretation's because I can have an effect on my peer's as well. We can all learn from each other. The group projects were educational entertaining. I learned and understood so much. I*



*have never laughed so loud in class before. I left class genuinely appreciating everyone in class and what we all have to offer.*