

Reflection: Teachers are able to evaluate themselves.

The teacher is a reflective practitioner who continually evaluates the effects of his or her choices and actions on pupils, parents, professionals in the learning community and others and who actively seeks out opportunities to grow professionally.

Date Experience Completed: Fall 2010

Describe your educational artifact: This artifact is a reflection of what I did and how I grew each day as a student teacher. I kept a daily log of what I did to teach and my reaction to students behavior. This log was started the first week when I began in-services and will be completed the last day of student teaching. I student taught high school Agricultural Education at Western Dubuque High School in Epworth IA.

Alignment: Wisconsin Teaching Standard 9: Reflection – Teachers are able to evaluate themselves.

Standard nine states that the teacher is a reflective practitioner who continually evaluates the effects of his or her choices and actions on pupils, parents, professionals in the learning community and others who actively seeks out opportunities to grow professionally.

Through my daily log, readers can see that as I began teaching more classes I grew as an educator and as a professional. With my students I have learned how to manage a classroom, and how to teach. I have also learned how to deal with the problem students. During this experience, I learned how to continually improve upon my lessons by reflecting what I did in the previous days. Upon my daily reflections, I could see what lesson worked or did not work. I feel I have grown immensely as a teacher and professional as my students respect me more each day. I work hard each day to continuously working to meet their learning levels and challenge them to their fullest potential.

I feel my reflection on parents can be seen through teacher/parent encounters I experience. I work with parents and students during SAE visits and when parents are dropping students off from contest. I also work with parents from FFA and the school district when parents and school organizations are working at the concession stand for sports. I had a parent come up to me when picking up their student from a contest and say their son liked my class it was nice to meet me. I feel that the more I teach and the more time I spend in the school district I can continue to connect and meet more and more parents.

Through my professional development meetings or teacher in-services I get to grow professionally and work with the educational community of teacher in the school district. This is the largest school district in Iowa with 19 small towns, so the learning community is huge,. This reflection can also be seen in my log as I write about in-service and professional development days. I have grown professionally by the way I present myself in posture and attire. Educationally I have learned about curriculum development, MAPP testing, setting curriculum goals, and understanding grade recovery.

Through the in-services I have attended to date I have developed educationally in the learning community a lot. I have also had the opportunity to serve as a District Adviser as my supervising teacher is the NE Iowa District Adviser for 2010-2011. At the district level, I have

attended meetings and conferences with other chapter FFA advisers, and spent two days hanging out with the Iowa FFA adviser, two district advisers and my district officers at a district officer conference. Through this time which was during a very relaxed setting with the advisers I have been able to develop agricultural lesson plans and receive FFA material such as FFA activity charts, sub plan binders and other helpful resources for first year teachers. In the community and with others, I attend church services in the surrounding communities; I attend community events and walk around town to greet people. I also have made connections with the local grocery store owner who supports the FFA and has a long conversation with me about agriculture these days every time I walk in his store.

UW-Platteville - Knowledge, Skills, and Disposition Standards: KSD4.a – Reflects on teaching.

I feel I can reflect on teaching through my log I can look back and see how much progress I have made since I began the log. I can also see how I have improved upon teaching. With my log, I can see what classroom management procedures work. I can also evaluate with my supervising teacher and practice new classroom management and lessons that might work better if a lesson failed. I feel all students teachers should be required to complete a daily log. It really helps me look back and see my progress as well as what I did right and wrong.

Secondary KSD Alignments:

KSD1.f – Assesses Students Learning

KSD2. d – Manages Student Behavior

KSD4. b – Maintains Accurate Records

KSD4.f – Shows professionalism

Explain what you learned about teaching/learning from this experience:

From this experience I learned that teaching may be challenging at times. A teacher may think he/she has every lesson and classroom management scenario planned out and fired up to teach. This might all come crashing down when a lesson doesn't go as planned or on student disrupts me or others. I believe it is definitely possible and not as scary for me to be a teacher as I originally thought. I learned that I enjoy the teaching profession more than I thought I would. I especially enjoy working with my students. After this experience I am 100% sure I want to be a teacher. I learned that teaching and learning can be fun especially if I teach topics I really enjoy teaching.

Explain what you learned about yourself as a prospective educator because of this experience.

As a prospective educator, I learned that I can teach. Although FFA may take up an extensive amount of time, it is possible to have an active FFA chapter while at the same time be a good teacher. I learned that just because I don't teach FFA during class time doesn't mean my chapter or students will miss out on FFA related activities. As a prospective educator, I know that each lesson has aspects that can improve it. Content may need to be added or taken out. Keeping a daily log and notes on each lesson helps me evaluate myself and to see how I can improve. West Dubuque school district's main goal is continuous improvement. I feel that by reflecting on my teaching I can continuously improve my teaching abilities and look back to see how my teaching can be improved.