

Bethany Lutheran College

Teacher Disposition Self-Evaluation

Building Character for a Successful Future

Morgan Schwarz

EDUC 310: Educational Psychology

Dr. Carrie Pfeifer

10 December 2015

Ever since I was a young child, playing teacher has always been a favorite pastime of mine. My life consisted of waking up in the morning, playing school, going to school, playing school again, and going to bed. While playing school, it was always important to me that I was the “best teacher.” In real life, however, teachers need to be the “best teachers” as they can possibly be. In addition to the essential knowledge and skills needed to carry out the task of teaching, effective teachers must possess certain critical attitudes.

Caring Dispositions

Empathy: A student’s emotions coming into the classroom affect the way they learn as well as how much they learn. As a teacher, it is important for myself to be able to connect to and be able to understand my students in order to give them the proper teaching and skills they need. I also realize that I will be faced with students from all different backgrounds, sometimes in which are very different from my own. With this being said, I can conclude that my empathy is developed. I firmly believe that I am able to connect with others as well as see things from their perspective.

Compassion: To me, having a compassionate classroom is vital. Not only should the teacher show compassion, it is important for the teacher to model as a compassionate individual looks like so the students can be compassionate with each other, as well. When I think of the word compassionate, I often think of a specific scenario in my head. When I was younger and had an issue at school, I always went to that one specific teacher who actively portrayed compassion. All in all, I believe that I am highly developed when it comes to compassion. As a coach, I always find myself encouraging my players to be the best that they can be. I have also found that a meaningful smile is important. Part of compassion, I also find myself maintaining my

composure and temper, while remaining calm, even when faced with chaos or situations that are difficult to deal with. As a coach, it is important that I remain calm even though I may disagree with a call that the umpire made. With this, it is important that I remain calm throughout chaotic situations in a classroom in which I believe I am highly capable of doing so.

Respect: Respect has always been one thing that I have had strong feelings for. Along with the strong feelings, I believe that respect is a two-way road. Without receiving respect from one individual, how am I supposed to return the respect? I understand that this should not be the case; however, I find it hard to deliver respect when I am not delivered respect in the first place. I may be a bit harsh on myself, but I would like to set high expectations for myself and say that my respect towards others is developing.

Passion: Colossians 3:23 states, “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men...” This all comes with passion. Having a passion to teach and having a passion to learn is something that is highly developed within my life. I firmly believe that I have an overflowing amount of excitement and enthusiasm aimed directly at my future becoming a successful, optimistic teacher who strives to make her students the best that they can be.

Cultural Competence: Each that I will come in contact will be unique in his or her own way. I appreciate that and look forward to learning more about cultures other than my own. As I wish I could say I was completely culturally competent, I am not. I was raised in a family that did not fully accept other cultures living in the United States. As I am becoming more aware of the environment around me and the cultures surrounding me, I have and am gradually gaining a better understanding of the world around me. With that said, I am at the stage of developing within the cultural competence stage of my life.

In August of 2013, I was crowned Miss Le Sueur. As this was a huge honor, I was insanely nervous. As I did not graduate from Le Sueur-Henderson High School, there was some conflict amongst other candidates that I had to overcome and move past. With this responsibility, I had to portray all caring aspects described in this disposition. Above all, I had to show passion for the town in which I lived in. For a week, I represented the town of Le Sueur while at the Minneapolis Aquatennial. As there were many more towns there that I knew had more to offer, I still had to show passion for the town in which I resided in. Developing speeches, costumes, and songs to depict Le Sueur is nothing less than showing passion. The enthusiasm and excitement that I had to have this title and opportunity shows how passionate I am about the town of Le Sueur.

Communicative Dispositions

Presence: I always find myself fully aware of my surroundings as well as staying on top of things inside and outside of school. As a coach, instructor, camp counselor, and much more, it is important that I prioritize and am “with it” when it comes to details and information that I need to stay focused on. Remaining in touch with others is also an important aspect of my life as well as focusing on others’ needs other than my own. Presence is developed in my life as I have had many various and heart-trembling experiences in my life that portray such.

Responsiveness: This topic always brings up something in my mind that I have always looked forward to: being a mother. A mother must be responsive to her child’s needs as well as a teacher must be responsive to his/her student’s needs. I strive to help others as I enjoy paying close attention and listen to others’ problems and issues that arise in their life. I believe that I am

developed when it comes to situations such as these that involve responding and connecting with another individual.

Attentiveness: This is something that is definitely still developing. I often find myself caught up in my own words and not taking into account others' thoughts and opinions which may reflect upon my thoughts and decisions. My mom sometimes will state, "It's either Morgan's way or the highway!" And believe it or not, this sometimes can be the case. Once I have an idea or thought in my head, I do not want to lose it. I just want it to happen. Throughout the past few years, I have been working at improving this aspect of my life and I am looking forward to continue to aim for my goals of becoming highly developed within this category.

Trustworthiness: Being that one person who you can always go to for anything is something that I have valued since I was in kindergarten. I have always been that one friend that my friends could come to for a shoulder to cry on, an ear to listen to, and a loving hug. As it is important to set boundaries in the classroom, I believe I am developed in this category. As a Home Health Aide, I understand the essential boundaries one must have when being genuine. Many people have mixed feelings about what genuine really means.

Collaboration: Collaborating with others has always had mixed feelings in my head. Some days, I understand the importance of grouping with one another but most days, I enjoy doing work on my own. As a child in elementary, middle, and high school, I was always the one stuck doing all the work in groups. As professionals now, I believe I am developing each and every day as I learn to collaborate with others regarding lessons, planning, solving issues, and effective practices. I am slowly learning that working with others isn't so bad after all as long as all members participate and give their input.

Voice: Without thinking twice, I am highly developed within this category. I believe that having a strong and open voice is essential in life itself. Engaging vocally with others is a characteristic which I portray to the greatest extent. I am blunt at times; however, I ensure it is at appropriate times. As Miss Le Sueur, it was important for me to speak out, boldly, with confidence, and composure. Communicating with peers, faculty, staff, community members, younger generations, as well as the elderly has never been an issue. Keeping conversation and making connections is vital in today's society.

Creative Dispositions

Flexibility: With this topic, I feel like I really can connect with my students. I am definitely developed within flexibility. Every student is different, with that being said, I am more than comfortable adjusting my teaching ways in a way that every student can learn and understand each topic.

Inventiveness: Pow! Bam! Swoosh! Did that grab your attention? This category is all about being quick on your feet and finding new ways to grab students attention. I would say that I am highly developed in this subcategory. If I would see a student lagging or being short with attention, I find a way to transition into a fun, exciting, yet educated way of learning.

Resourcefulness: In this subcategory, I would rate myself as developing. One example that I have is Pinterest. I use Pinterest for many things. Whether it is recipes, home remodeling, arts and crafts, I always find Pinterest resourceful. I can learn from it and use to adapt to the needs of the classroom and the students within.

Resilience: Resilience, what can I say about resilience? This is not one of my strong traits. I would, without hesitation, say that I am developed but ongoing practices when it comes to this aspect. I sometimes have a hard time coping with stress and maintaining a healthy mental state. However, I can jump out of it quickly with keeping a positive attitude establishing good humor to any environment.

Stress has never really been something that I have had to undergo in my life. However, I can recall one major time in my life when stress was a factor. When my younger brother was 2 years old, 7 years ago from now, he was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes. Trying to grasp the fact that things simply will not be the same anymore as well as trying to learn everything involved with the disease while trying to stay on top of homework and schooling. In the midst of this, my family ensured that there was laughter through this whole thing even through the worst of the times. This portrayed my great use of resiliency within complicated situations throughout life.

Critical Dispositions

Reflectiveness: Reflecting and reminiscing often go hand-in-hand in my crazy, ongoing brain. Reflecting on past experiences and assessing what went right and what could have been different is an important part of my life so I can continue to improve at skills learned throughout my life. With that, developed is an appropriate term to use in regard to my usefulness of reflective measures in my life. Always aiming at improvement and shooting for higher goals than previously is essential in having a successful life, such as my own.

Initiative: Going back to collaboration, taking charge and being the “leader” of things is embedded in my character of who I am. As becoming a principal has always been a thought in the back of my head, taking lead charge and being the one to seek to solve issues or problems is something that I love to do! Always looking at problems and the possible solutions of things is a positive characteristic of myself as I strive to make the educational world and community a better place for all as I am a developed initiative future educator.

Open-mindedness: This category is an easy one for me. I would say that I am highly developed when it comes to being open minded. Just based off personal experiences I am well aware that not everyone has the same beliefs or opinions. There are plenty of individuals out there that are prejudice. I have adapted well and realized that everyone is entitled to their own opinion and belief, and having an open mind makes it easier to not only connect and teach in a variety of ways, but I can also learn something from each person to better myself as well.

Efficacy: Through multiple years of playing school as a child, I believe I have a highly developed sense of efficacy. Having a bold sense of confidence is important in which I portray in the classroom as well as outside of the classroom doors. Having confidence that I can promote student learning is important and something that I look forward to continuing to progress each and every year as a teacher.

Humility: Within this category of humility, I believe that I am developed. I feel as if some times I may pass over that one student in which needs extra assistance since the rest of the class has achieved the objectives set. However, I do believe I will put my students above anything else set forth. If a student would like to come in early and practice math, I will allow it. I will not be one of those teachers who say, “No” just because it is outside “school hours.”

Professional Dispositions

Professionalism: As stated earlier in this paper, I was Miss Le Sueur. Part of accepting this opportunity was to have appropriate dress and attire at all times. This included events in the 110 degree heat during the summer as well as the below zero parade nights during the winter months. Even a trip to the grocery store required appropriate and somewhat professional dress as well as pictures on social media sites. With this, I did not find an issue and categorized myself as highly developed. I find myself to be well-groomed as well as punctual and courteous in the community as well as in the classroom.

Personal and professional ethics and integrity: I was always raised in a type of family that knows right from wrong. My parents have raised me to the best of their ability in which they are now proud of the work that they have done to raise me as the successful person I am today. Working hard and never giving up is something that I cherish. It is important that you work for what you have and take every chance you can to become more educated. You can never know too much! I find myself to be developed when it comes to my personal ethics and integrity while knowing what is right and wrong and how I portray myself in the professional environment.

Work Ethic/Responsibility: In school now, it is important to me that my work is done on time and as accurate as possible. I have a highly developed work ethic/responsibility in my life which is given to me from my mother. When placed with a difficult assignment, I make sure that this is on top priority. I have a feeling of guilt if something is not done on the day that is due (even though that does not happen too often).

Confidentiality: I have a highly developed sense of confidentiality. As a Certified Nursing Assistant and Home Health Aide for 5 years now, I completely understand the importance of confidential information. As most of my experience has been in a healthcare facility, I can imagine that it is very similar to an educational setting. I can also relate this to my own experience. One of my biggest pet peeves is when teachers “accidentally” slip the grades of other students on the Smartboard when they are unaware that the Smartboard is not on “freeze” anymore. This makes my stomach twist inside. I never wanted my peers to see what I was getting in the class or what I got on the last quiz!

Last semester in Children’s Literature, I put together a semester long project in which I have held as one of the best projects thus far in my college career. This was a book anthology of over 50 books in which I created, laminated, and placed in a 3-ring binder in alphabetical order. Unlike many students in my class, I showed a positive work ethic while completing this gradually throughout the course of the semester. At the end of the semester, I was able to efficiently laminate the papers and place them in a 3-ring binder to look professional and appealing to the eye. In the end, the hard work paid off! This shows the amount of responsibility in which I had during the semester as well as the strong work ethic in which I portrayed.

Personal Professional Development Plan

Above all, the steps I must take to become an intentional teacher requires myself to become a certified teacher according to the Minnesota requirements using the utmost confidence. It is important that I continue to take initiative but also understand that sometimes, I will need to sit back on the “back burner.” Not all conversations will require my input even though I may have

an outstanding idea or thought. Another area of development in which I need to take steps forth to become an intentional teacher is collaborating with one another. I often find myself working on things by myself rather than with others even though we may be allowed to collaborate with one another. I will strive to make leaps toward becoming a collaborative learner in accordance with my peers as well as role models above myself. Lastly, it is important that I take jumps at improving the developmental area of respect. As this may seem so simple for many, I struggle with it at times, as many people do but find it hard to admit. A two-way road to respect makes sense but in all reality, as an educator, you are not going to receive the same amount of respect that is required to give back. In a nutshell, it is important that I focus my attention to the areas in which I need work on. Without these aspects, being the teacher of my dreams will not happen.