

Mitch's Folio Reflection

After creating, writing, reflecting and compiling all of my artifacts for my electronic folio, I realized the importance of portraying my teaching materials in a website. Organizing my education assignments was a great experience for me to reflect on my teaching, learning and leading in and out of the classroom. My website became an easy resource for me to network with other educators and to display my educational materials for mathematics, especially from my teaching assisting. The website displays my growth from my pre-teaching courses to my teaching assisting class as well as how each artifact overlaps with the others.

I decided to create an electronic profile after we learned how to create a website, as found in weebly, which was disclosed at one of our professional development seminars for ED 331. The steps to make the weebly seemed straight forward and seemed to be a great experience to put together a website to demonstrate and show off my educational assignments, for instance; lesson plans, unit plans and assessments. The final result provided me a valuable experience in which will help me with my educational journey to become a math educator. I was able to portray, organize and reflect all-in-one resource. Also, I can always update my website by adding new material at any moment and allow a future employer to take a look at my work as I'm applying for teacher positions. The format of the website allows viewers to scan through the artifacts to gain insight of my teaching style, classroom management, my educational experience and my philosophy of education, which will be very beneficial as I apply for jobs in the future.

As I compiled my artifacts, I realized I had a lot of the materials and educational opportunities from my educational course at Grand Valley State University. I realized the “Teaching” and “Leading” sections were easier for me since I already had countless lesson plans and worksheets which incorporate blooms taxonomy, differentiated instruction, multiple intelligence and formative assessments. I also created various assessments from my Introductions to Assessments classes. Other items I added were selected responses, extended responses and performance assessments for my unit on high school Algebra. Also, I found my multi-genre project for Content Literacy class and my lessons/unit plans I created for my observations demonstrated my understanding of teaching and how students learn in a classroom. Thus, these folders were easy to find artifacts which demonstrated my understanding for the standards. As found in the “In the Democratic Society” folder, I had to really think of how my professional organizations will help me to take the next step in my teacher career. Being a member of NCTM and Delta Upsilon has allowed me to network with other educators as well as, how to work with diverse learners and perspectives. These experiences have encouraged me to learn how to be an active listener and obtain great skills as I formed personal relationship with my colleagues. Lastly, I found the “Learning” folder required me to critically think what experience demonstrate my understanding on how students learn in various ways in a classroom and the benefits of artifacts for student learning. I learned that I need to consider the students interest and voice as I crate the learning environment and classroom procedures and expectations. I have learned a lot by giving students a choice to demonstrate their learning styles and it gives students an opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of the concept in a meaningful way to them. Thus, I have realized one must

explore what they want to include in a classroom and have an open mind of other teaching styles one could incorporate into teaching.

Overall, my teaching experience has been very rewarding and helpful as I continue my teaching journey. The folio has given me an opportunity to reflect on my educational accomplishments over previous semesters and my teaching assisting semester. I have learned how organizing and formatting my folio to showcase my educational accomplishments. My electronic folio demonstrates my understanding of education to future employers and other educators. Also, it has taught me how easy creating a website in order to showcase my accomplishments. This experience has given me an opportunity to self-reflect on my understanding of teaching practice and philosophy as well as show how I can challenge myself to become a better math teacher in and out of the class environment. As I complete my teaching assistance journey, I will continue to grow as teacher and individual. I will challenge myself with new experience and opportunities in order to enhance my education.