

Capstone Reflection

Name of Preservice Teacher -Karissa Weinrich

Name of Mentor Teacher -Katie Rathe

Email of Mentor Teacher -kathryn.leonhardt@cune.org

Dates of Capstone -4/31-5/2 Grade(s) Taught -3

Location -Trinity Lutheran; Fremont, NE

Subjects Taught -Writing, Computer

Brief Summary

I was in a third grade classroom. I have been in the classroom with these children once before, so I knew some of the students already. The class had a wide range of abilities which really was great for me to experience. Mrs. Rathe informed me ahead of time that she had a few students who had attention problems and also a couple with learning disabilities but in her classroom it is best to treat them like everyone else because they are not severe disabilities. Overall I would say it was a very normal third grade Lutheran school experience with 25 students.

Analytical Reflection

Please reflect on the components listed below. Note strengths as well as modifications for the future.

1. *Hook: Students were very interested by the balloons and were extremely engaged. I could tell they all really were excited because they don't get to do things like that every day.*
2. *Tapping into prior knowledge: Students seemed to be attentive and engaged when reviewing about types of sentences and paragraphs. There were a lot of students answering the questions I asked so I thought they had a pretty good review and I had really tapped into their prior knowledge.*
3. *Setting a purpose: The purpose of writing a story, was set well. Everyone knew what was expected because a rubric was given on day two before writing final drafts so it could be discussed in class.*
4. *Vocabulary strategy: Vocabulary strategy went surprisingly well. Students recognized many of the terms I used such as "paragraph", "rough draft", and types of sentences, but also learned a couple new things as well.*
5. *Comprehension strategy: The graphic organizer was well received, but some students had problems understanding the concept of paragraphs. Because the organizer only had room to put main ideas in one sentence, many students only wrote one sentence in their paragraph. We had to stop and explain*

several times but we finally got it all figured out. Students then did a great job of putting together short stories with 4-5 paragraphs as was the goal.

6. *Methodology : The main problem I had with my lesson was instructions. I knew we had been warned multiple times about giving careful directions, but I still had problems. I think the main thing is to repeat things over and then say them in another way and repeat again. After this experience I have realized it is okay and actually necessary to repeat directions two or three times at least. It is also important to write directions. The third day I wrote instructions and the lessons went much more smoothly.*

7. *Organization of lesson plans: All the plans were organized well and went how I imagined. Everything seemed to go in the order I had planned and I was pleased with them.*

8. *Assessment: Assessment was done using a rubric. I think I would have made the points different if I would use this again but overall the categories on the rubric were good.*

9. *Class management: I think I did the best I could with classroom management. There were some children in the class who no matter what would misbehave. I knew this ahead of time, and I went into the experience confident and was sure to use a loud "teacher voice". I even had one of the other teachers in the school tell me my "teacher voice" sounded just like my mom, who is also a teacher at Trinity!*

10. *Pacing: All the time was utilized well and there didn't seem to be a ton of downtime. If there was we had students read or work on other work they needed to finish.*

Holistic Reflection

As a result of this experience I feel very much like a teacher. It has made me confident in my lesson planning and my abilities to carry them out. The class had a great time writing their short stories and the paragraphs (which were the main things we wanted students to improve on) were formed really well. I also taught the students how to use PowerPoint. This was a challenge because the school's lab has Mac computers and I had never done PowerPoint on a Mac. I led the class through steps of making a presentation the first day and the second day they put all the steps together to make presentations on a state. They had already gathered the state information so basically I was teaching computer class. I was proud of my ability to give clear directions that were spoken and written and of how I adapted to the Mac computers. I was very happy to have this experience with such a fun group and a great cooperating teacher.