

TASK #7- Reflection and Self-Evaluation

My student teaching this semester has been a whirlwind of emotions and fantastic experiences. I'm very glad that throughout both of my placements, my cooperating teachers have been super helpful with how to handle a classroom and lesson plan accordingly with lesson objectives. I have been able to see a bunch of growth in myself in many different areas within a high school classroom and an elementary classroom. I feel like I have a very good grasp now as well on how to handle different ages whether it be high school students or K-5 students. As far as lesson planning goes, I have such a better idea on what helps me when actually delivering the lesson. At the start of the entire semester I was very nervous how to go about planning and delivering my TPA concept but now at the end of the semester I feel overjoyed by how it went.

Whenever thinking about what to teach for my teaching performance assessment, I was first going to do something pretty basic like steady time or rhythmic accuracy. I didn't really think that those were going to be enjoyed by the students so after their percussion ensemble concert, I asked them questions about what they wanted to learn in the percussion world and a lot of them agreed that world music is something they were never exposed to. I got so excited by this that I had ideas and concepts flooding into my head so I was set on what I wanted to teach.

For the materials I would need, I had a lot of the information just from being in so many world music ensembles through my time here at WVU but I also needed instruments. Luckily, I had a connection with a high school teacher in Pennsylvania who had the perfect number of hand drums I was able to borrow. In addition to the drums, I had my own personal gankogui and axatse I was able to utilize. I also own a book of traditional African Drum and Dance

pieces that I used for a few playing patterns.

Now that I had all of the materials I needed, I brainstormed a bunch of different ways to go about delivering the concept to the students. I thought that since they have never played much world music, let alone African drumming, I wanted to start them off by relating the African instruments to the version they were familiar with. I also assessed them on three main areas. Those areas were tone production on the hand drums, Ghana factors, and parts of the ensemble/Kpanlogo patterns.

I think that my delivery of all of this content went very smoothly. During the second lesson, I could feel the students getting a little bogged down with all of the information, but they retained it and we ended that class with a drum circle so they could see that even though they are learning this stuff, they are having fun while doing so. Looking back, I also see how comfortable I was when in front of the ensemble compared to the start of the placement. For the most part, the students listened to what I had to say and I felt very safe and comfortable doing so.

One thing that I feel better about after my second placement is my classroom management. I personally felt very awkward when trying to address behavioral issues in a high school setting. Comparing it to my time at Mylan Park, I feel like it is easier to give rules and consequences to students' actions because they saw me more as an authoritative figure and at Morgantown High School, I feel as though they just saw me as a peer or another student. I definitely felt respected by them but I also feel like they walked over me a little bit because I was a little too laid back.

For the students' learning, I feel very good about how much, and the quality at what they were able to remember and then utilize when playing. There were some issues with one or two

students who had some issues but after talking with my CT, we boiled it down to a lack of effort on the students' part. Although a small amount of students didn't try so hard, they still were able to have fun and learn as they did.

Overall my time teaching this content was very enjoyable not only for me but for the students as well. They expressed to me on my last day that they wanted me to come back and teach more world music spanning more than just African drum and dance. That is my greatest achievement from being placed at Morgantown High School and I've very happy with their learning and I would have loved to be able to teach more. It also gave me a great sense of why I wanted to become a teacher and give students not only an understanding but an appreciate for music not matter where it comes from in the world.