

## The Reflective Journal: Week 11

This past week went extremely quick. It was my last full week of teaching everything. Starting next week, Mr. York will be taking over math again to help the students prepare for ISTEP. This week I started reading *Hatchet* to the students and was the lead teacher with the literacy stations. I also facilitated tutoring by myself since Mr. York's track season has begun and worked more on confronting students with problems.

My goals for this week was to provide various ways to introduce the content. Overall, I feel as though I truly did not put enough effort into focusing on this goal. I did introduce the content through videos, games, morning work, and asking questions to spike prior knowledge, but they are the same techniques that I have been using. However, I have been relating the introduction to the content to the students' lives.

My most proud moments this week were my conversation with Mr. Moore and Mrs. Walker. In the afternoon on Monday and Tuesday, Mr. York was absent. Mr. Moore checked on me a few times and I sent two students to his office due to disrespect and defiance. On Wednesday, Mr. Moore told me how much I have grown from the first time Mr. York was gone to now and told me to keep up the good work. Additionally, Mrs. Walker told me that my bulletin board on Civic Duty turned out well and my unit was overall good. She also explained how when I was teaching about the Bill of Rights, she was doing the same. Mrs. Walker also asked to see my activity with the students and asked if she could use it to review the ten amendments.

On the other hand, one of my failures this week was my grammar lesson on colons. Mr. York walked out of the room as I was starting to introduce the topic and the students started acting like there was a substitute. Students were out of their seats, talking out of turn, and having side conversations. There were a few times when I got the students quiet down and I could teach, but for the ten minutes Mr. York was gone, nothing was accomplished. When Mr. York arrived, the students worked hard and at least eight of them raised their hands for help. Once Mr. York saw this, we had a quick conversation and told the students that he was disappointed. He also told the students that they were not putting effort into their work because I explained how to do it, we went over an example, and another student also explained how to use colons in correctly. Overall, I still am working on staying in control of the classroom when Mr. York is not present.

Throughout this week, Mr. York and I did not have as much time to talk. He was not at school Monday or Tuesday afterschool and on Wednesday and Thursday, he has track practice. However, throughout the week we still talk and we also talked on Friday. One of the big lessons that I learned this week was that I do not need to rely on the books to teach the lesson. Instead, I can have the students get out a piece of paper and teach them the way I know how because sometimes the book can get confusing. Another thing I learned was that I need to think of catchy ways to help them remember various things, such as please excuse my dear Aunt Sally for order of operations. We also talked about how I say the steps instead of just showing them and how I need to stress those steps. Overall, the week went well and I am still learning new things every day.