

## The Reflective Journal: Week 2

Week two was a good week for me. More of the students are beginning to ask me for help and I am forming more connections with other students. I have learned most of the procedures and the more of the students are listening to me. I have taken over spelling, which had its ups and downs. Also, Mr. Moore, the principal, offered me an afterschool job assisting with the EXSTREAM club.

My goal for this week was analyze what went well and what needs improvement after teaching a lesson and implement that into my next lesson. This past week, I was in charge of planning and implement spelling. After each day, Mr. York and I discussed what we each thought went well and what I needed to improve upon. After analyzing the lesson, I consciously thought about how to implement his thoughts and my own into the following day. For example, we discussed that I need to project my voice more for all of the students to hear. As a result, I have been trying to speak louder for all students to hear and I have occasionally walked around the room more when it is appropriate.

One of my proud moments this week was when some of the students were excited about the bulletin board I created. The bulletin board consisted of ten questions on the geography of the United States. I gave the students the opportunity to answer the questions for a prize. Once the due date was up, the students kept asking what the prize was and they were extremely excited when they realized that they received one sucker per each question they answered correctly. A few of the students even asked if I could make another bulletin board with different questions because it was fun.

On the other hand, one of my failures this week was when I was giving the students their spelling pretest and posttest. Multiple students asked me to wait and slow down to give them more time to write down the words. Mr. York also asked if I would exaggerate the words more. I feel as though with more practice, I will find the happy medium between staying on our schedule and providing the students enough time to write their words.

My conversations with Mr. York have been extremely helpful. He does not hesitate to say what I need to improve on or what his opinions are and for that I am grateful. We have discussed when to let students go to the bathroom or to the nurse, how to use more wait time, and that I need to scaffold my lessons more instead of challenging them right away. However, the most helpful conversation was when we talked about the job offering. Even though I knew it would have been an amazing opportunity, I knew that I would also be planning, grading, and much more as the semester goes on and I did not want to overwhelm myself. I wanted to focus on student teaching and enjoy the process instead of stressing myself out too much. Mr. York provided me with his insight and in the end, I told Mr. Moore no thank you. I have never had a supporting teacher in any of my other practicum classes who have been this honest and upfront in the beginning and for that I really thankful to have Mr. York.