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Writing Assignment #1

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Why I Am Considering the Teaching Profession

Unlike some people who have dreamt of teaching since they played school as children, my decision to be a teacher was not my primary plan growing up. Actually, I wanted to be a wedding planner for most of my high school career. What's strange, as well, is that I didn't really have much experience with kids either. I have nephews, but I rarely saw them and I'm the youngest child of six. I believe the idea of becoming a teacher first came to me when I met one of my greatest role models, a high school teacher of mine. I realized how much impact she had on not just my life, but also all the lives of students she had had before, currently has, and will have in the future. I saw how students from seven to twelve years ago would express their gratitude to her, even though she simply met their needs before her own. Now, not having much experience with kids was a bit terrifying to me, but this teacher's example and guidance calmed these fears. She always let her students know that if they put their minds to a task, they could do anything. The more I followed her advice, the more I began to believe that I was born to teach.

The reasons for making this change to the field of education developed over time for me. I began to spend more time with my nephews and realized that I was actually good with kids. It wasn't hard for me to change my mindset to have the

same perspective as a child. I also really enjoy the elements of pretending, imagination, and fun, which can really help for when I'm teaching a rather uninteresting subject. It is my desire to make these subjects more fun and to think of ways to make it more enjoyable for kids, no matter the ease of boredom. As I say this, the job may seem as if it only has perks and will simply be an amusement park I get to visit every day, but there will be plenty of challenges along the way.

For example, diversity will more than likely be tough to tackle at times, because I know I won't always have a room full of kids that have the same ethnicity, religion, or even language as me. The biggest challenge I see with diversity within the classroom would come, for example, from having three or more students who speak a different language than me. Trying to accommodate to their needs without being able to communicate would be tough, but hopefully I could learn Spanish, as it is the most common language besides English, while I'm teaching, so that even though this would be a struggle, it wouldn't defeat my passion for teaching.

As I said before, I was born to teach, I was made to teach, and I am going to teach. I may not have seen it before, but my desires rest with this career alone, now. It's the only profession that has brought me comfort and joy and ultimately has been able to fulfill my need to help others. There is no other way I would want to spend the rest of my life than by being able to change the lives of those around me as my high school teacher did so effortlessly. Just as she taught me, I can do anything I set my mind to as an educator.

Why are the 40 Developmental Assets Important in the lives of All Children?

It's important for children to know the assets because they may not know that they need support at home, or need to learn constructive use of time. They also need to know that by their teacher actually becoming a teacher, they know very well what is expected for the lives of children. This can create a sense of comfort for the child, knowing that an adult takes so much interest and importance in their life.

Another reason it is important for all children to know the 40 developmental assets, is because they are the worlds future. If our generation of teachers can display as many assets as possible to our classrooms, it could eventually change the way most children are treated today. For example, there could be less abuse, neglect, and underachievement in school. The more effort teachers put in, the more frequently that positive results can occur.

How Will I Incorporate the Assets In My Future Classroom?

As a future educator, I plan to incorporate the 40 Developmental Assets in a number of ways. One way is by asking the class every morning if everyone had breakfast to make sure that even though every single student may not all receive that support at home, they definitely will in my classroom. It is important for teachers, and especially myself, to make sure that my students are well cared for and find school a safe place to come.

Another way that I will incorporate the Assets is making sure that even though the country we live in celebrates certain holidays, my class will celebrate holidays that everyone can participate in. This can be done by having a "Winter Wonderland " themed part instead of Christmas, or even allowing someone of the

Jewish religion help teach the class about what Passover is or the meaning of Hanukah. This can give the students a sense of unity, and worldly knowledge about how diverse the class, and the world is. It is important to make sure that the students know that diversity is a good and accepted.