

## Reflection

My e-portfolio portrays many areas of growth that I have developed as I have completed my education at Dixie State University. The program contains the DESERT Model standards in which I have used as a guide to enhance my professional development. Contained in my e-portfolio are artifacts that stand as a witness of my ability to perform in the classroom as a competent, caring, and qualified teacher. I know that as I continue in my development as a teacher the experiences and knowledge I have attained through this time at DSU will continue to expand and with this solid foundation I will be able to keep progressing in my competence, in becoming more caring, and I will be qualified to perform in the classroom.

My competence and ability to teach the content was evident as shown in a lesson I did on clouds (DM3). I used motivational techniques as I helped the students perform a science experiment where they had to hypothesize how much water a cloud could hold before it precipitates. This lesson showed a lot of student inquiry, where they the students had to hypothesize and collaborate with their peers and consider their perspectives to establish their hypothesis. Students were able to reach the learning objectives while they were intrigued and excited about their learning. Another artifact that stands as evidence of competency is an observation conference report that I have from one of my supervisors (DM2). She expressed my ability and confidence in teaching the content; She expressed the lesson as outstanding and concrete! She praised me on my well-written lesson plan, on my ability directly instruct, and the variety of activities that were included that had appropriate modifications to enable all learners to learn.

Looking at the artifacts contained in my e-portfolio it is evident that I truly care about the students in my classroom and their ability to learn. I understand the importance of developing trusting relationships and want the students to enjoy learning and be able to have the content likened to their individual needs and interests. In one of my artifacts titled Lucy's Reflection (DM5) it demonstrates my caring disposition. "Lucy" was a student that I observed and noticed her interests,

her ability level, her strengths, and her weaknesses. As I got to know her through the semester I was able to gather data and evidence of what she needed to be a successful student. She needed to be challenged more, and with the data I had gathered I was able to determine a better academic plan to help her achieve in a greater abundance.

Another artifact that demonstrates a caring teacher is my classroom management plan (DM4). This management plan not only outlines the behavior of the students and the nuts and bolts of running a classroom, but it also is the core of the learning culture. The culture and environment has an incredible effect on the ability of each student to learn. My purpose in teaching cannot be accomplished if the student cannot feel safe, secure, and comfortable in their learning environment.

As an educator it is critical to be qualified! Qualifications are a distinguishing characteristic in any professional. Being qualified also portrays a degree of standard of excellence that every student deserves to have in their teacher. This is found in me through the evidence of my Philosophy of education (DM6). I have matured in my teaching throughout the DSU education program. The experiences I have had and the learning that has taken place, has helped my philosophy to not be just a philosophy, but an actual experience backed up with real classroom involvement. There has been trial and error, learning and growth, that has led me to my feelings on education and the classroom.

Another way in which I portray being a qualified teacher is through my ESL endorsement. I am endorsed as an ESL instructor and am highly qualified in my ability to differentiate in the classroom. In my final in my ESL course (DM1) I discuss SIOP, what it is, and how it contributes to the classroom. SIOP allows teachers to become more creative in the types of instruction and the modes of presenting material, so students of all levels and learning styles can be taught throughout, according to their needs. By becoming a SIOP expert I not only can meet the needs of my ESL students, but it gives me the knowledge to differentiate to reach ALL my students.

This e-portfolio demonstrates my ability to align my teaching disposition to the DESERT Model Standards. These artifacts and benchmark assessments are

evidence that I am a competent, caring, and qualified educator that has a desire and passion to help students learn and become an active, contributing citizen with their communities. I have so much gratitude for my educational training and the foundation it has laid and the direction it motivates me to keep moving in. The attributes of being competent, caring, and qualified, are things I will always be striving to become and will always be able to distinguish me as a professional in the workplace.