



A Reflection on Service Learning

EDUC 1111

Quotes on Reflection

During the Fall 2021 semester, students in EDUC 1111 (Education in the Community) working with various community partners to learn more about the education system in Boston. The community partners that students worked with this semester were 826 Boston, Apprentice Learning, Balfour Academy, Beacon Group, Camp Harbor View, Al Hamra Academy, City Sprouts, and Dorchester Boys and Girls Club.

This PowerPoint encapsulates quotes from the students' final reflections on what they have learned, observed, etc.

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I have learned a lot about myself during the service-learning experience. I used to consider myself a ‘good teacher’ until I started tutoring in SL sites [with students whom had grown up in a different educational environment than I had]

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One thing that I learned about myself [while tutoring students] was that I bounce off of the energy of the students.

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Seattle, showing a large body of water (the waterfront) and a bridge (the Alaskan Way Viaduct) crossing it. The city buildings are visible in the foreground and background. A dark, semi-transparent diamond shape is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the text and quotation marks.

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One of the most important things I ended up discovering was that my passion for teaching was validated during this [service learning] experience

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[It] surprised me [that students remained motivated] because I had assumed that if they were struggling with school, they would not be inclined to put so much time and effort into their schoolwork. But, the students were highly motivated...to learn with tutors at the service learning site.



As a Speech and Language Pathology major,
my career allows flexibility in the age range
that I work with...something that I learned
about myself is that I enjoy working with
kids

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[By working with students, I realized] that if they don't have a good [afterschool] environment to study, they cannot understand what they missed in school, leading to a negative spiral.

A nighttime city skyline with various skyscrapers and a bridge. Light trails from traffic are visible on a road in the foreground. The sky is dark blue.

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Now that I have been challenged, I am seeing how hard [teaching] is, which is probably why people say teaching is the hardest job.



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In my service-learning experience, I had the opportunity to work with a diverse class of eighth grade students. Through this, I learned to related to and build relationships with students of different backgrounds, perspectives, and personalities.



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I learned that there is a very good relationship between out of school organizations and different communities...My SL site provides a place for students to go after school to hang out with some friends if they are not looking for tutoring and take a break in a safe space and have a good time with different activities available.



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Right away I was impressed with how the administrators ran their tutoring program. There was a lot of thought and effort put towards the onboarding process of new tutors, making sure they were knowledgeable and had everything they needed to go on to tutor the students.



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In my previous experiences, I had usually [worked] with kids who generally wanted to be there, and if they didn't, I had the freedom and tools to find something for them to enjoy and look forward to. However, at this youth gardening program, the funding and tools, and the curriculum was set enough that I struggled to consistently find engagement for those who weren't already.

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Since I grew up near Boston in a public school system, I felt pretty confident that I was familiar with the schools and general student populations going into this experience. Looking back on it now, I would see that many of my assumptions...were correct, but I was [also] surprised by a lot of what I encountered.

A photograph of the Boston skyline at dusk, featuring several skyscrapers and a body of water in the foreground. The sky is a deep blue with some light clouds. The buildings are illuminated, and the water reflects the light. A dark, semi-transparent geometric shape is overlaid on the image, containing the text.

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I learned so much about myself, students in Boston, and out of school education organizations. It was refreshing to see how what was learned in a lesson, could then be translated to in-person experiences.

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This [experience] showed my how much of an impact that [the learning environment] has on the students and [how important it is] to have people helping them who genuinely care and want them to learn as much as they can.



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I am very grateful for the experience of working with these young people in Boston and am encouraged by their motivation to learn. I was almost always greeted with positive attitude throughout the tutoring sessions which made the experience more enjoyable.