

Artifact Reflection

Contemporary Social Problems Paper

March 11, 2010

Artifact description:

This artifact is a midterm paper I wrote for Intro to Sociology 2330. The paper was about two books we read in class; *The Condemnation of Little B* by Elaine Brown and *Golden Gulag* by Ruth Wilson Gilmore. The paper describes social and judicial issues for African Americans in the southern and western United States.

Wisconsin Teaching Licensure Standard Alignment:

Standard 1-Content:

The teacher understands the central concepts, tools of inquiry, and structures of the disciplines she or he teaches and can create learning experiences that make these aspects of subject matter meaningful for pupils.

The paper best aligns with standard 1, because it shows my knowledge of current social problems facing our society today. Also the paper covers almost every subject of social studies such as civics, United States history, and psychology to name a few. It proves that I have a balanced knowledge base for all the possible subjects I could teach. The books taught me that there is rarely an easy answer to a problem, and that the problem may cross over into several other subject matters. It's important to have the knowledge of those various subjects.

UW-Platteville Knowledge, Skill, Disposition Alignment:

KSD1.a. Demonstrates Knowledge of Content and Pedagogy

The candidate displays extensive content knowledge of his/her subject areas and demonstrates a continuing search for new content knowledge, resources, and best instructional practices, while understanding student diversity and student misconceptions and misunderstandings as a key to the teaching process.

As a future secondary social studies teacher, this paper helps me realize how we all come from different back rounds. With this understanding I can identify misconceptions and misunderstandings and address them appropriately. While I haven't been directly affected by the subject matter of the paper, it's always good to try to understand how life could be different. I think with all these realizations make me more able to teach a wider demographic of students.

KSD Secondary Alignments:

KSD1.d. Demonstrating Knowledge of Resources

KSD3.c. Engaging Students in Learning

Personal Reflection:

What I learned about teaching/learning:

The experiences from writing the paper have shown me that it's important to learn about the world outside of our own. I feel this will affect what topics I decide to include during units in effort to expose students to over life styles. Giving them the opportunity to change how they perceive the world.

What I learned about myself as a prospective educator:

The process of writing the paper showed me how the United States outside of Wisconsin is very different and furthered my understanding of the social problems facing this country. Our American culture is extremely complicated and always changing in some form or another. I learned that being as up to date as possible with content is always going to be a challenge in Social Studies.