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Foundations of Education

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Teacher Panel Analysis

The teacher interview that was set up for us students was a wonderful experience for everyone there. It was great being able to ask real teachers questions about the in's and the out's of not only being an educator, but also teaching students values and to be respectable kids. It was nice to be able to ask them questions that each one of the students in the Foundations of Education class wanted to know. We got to ask them questions about why they became teachers, about their lesson plans, about No Child Left Behind, and so much more.

I loved hearing about why each of the different seven teachers chose to teach. A couple of the teachers mentioned how they had spectacular teachers themselves growing up and it inspired them to be the same. A teacher said how she had a High School teacher that just really knew how to reach out to kids, no matter who the kid was. Another teacher also had a great High School English teacher who knew that the kids needed regularity in their school day, yet the teacher could also be spontaneous. I think those are two really good traits to have as a schoolteacher. Children need to be on some sort of routine so they aren't crazy, yet they love to have something spontaneous every once in a while to mix things up. Dr. Teresa Hunter said that she grew up with younger brothers, and she was always teaching all of them new things. I can relate to this very well because I have a younger brother and sister, and I feel like I am constantly helping them learn new

things. Not only with their schoolwork, but also helping them learn to be polite and nice. I think growing up with little siblings has been a great help to me being a good future teacher.

To be a good teacher, lesson plans should be made but maybe not always closely followed. Each of the teachers there gave almost the same advice on lesson plans. They should be made so you know the main objectives that should be taught, but it's almost impossible to follow word for word. It's so hard to follow them word for word because the class might learn at a slower, or faster pace than you thought they would originally. Or maybe a different teaching opportunity could come up in a discussion, who knows what kind of discussions could come out of a simple lesson. It was reassuring to know that, at least in the Sheridan school district, lesson plans do not have to be turned in. The teacher panel said that most of the time they had meetings with other teachers teaching the same grade and talked about their lesson plans. It will be nice to have other professionals to collaborate ideas with.

I am both excited and nervous for the first year that I will actually be teaching. The teacher panel said that it's fun, challenging, and tiring. They said you will definitely learn how to write good objectives for the class during that first year. Staying up late thinking about what to teach the next day will happen, a lot, they said. There will definitely be some hard times, but in the end the kids will make it worth it. "They keep you on your toes and make your life happy" according to Dr. Teresa Hunter.

The teachers didn't really have too much to say about No Child Left Behind. All they really said is that it didn't turn out quite the way they thought it would, and that we

are beyond lucky to live in Sheridan, Wyoming. Most of the kids in Sheridan have a decent home life and their parents make a decent income.

Some miscellaneous great advice that the teacher panel gave us is to communicate to the children's parents often from the very beginning. They said do not wait until there is a problem with the child to talk to their parents, mom and dad like to know if their child is doing well, too. And if there is a problem child, talk to their parents, and maybe even talk to previous teachers and ask them what worked in their classroom. Another good piece of advice was to reward positive behavior. If other students see kids getting rewarded for positive things, they will strive to do positive things also.

Near the end of the interview with the teacher panel, they gave all of us good tips on turning in applications and how to do well in interviews. On the applications, they said there can be NO errors, if there is error after error, they will automatically throw it out. Powerful letters of recommendation will also help a lot because they can kind of get a view into how you really work. The teacher panel also said to talk about your personal strengths you have as a teacher. During the interview, when they ask if you have any questions have something to ask them.

The teacher panel was a great thing to go to. I enjoyed it a lot because I got to hear all about being a teacher by first hand experience. They all had such knowledgeable and interesting information to give us and it was very beneficial. My favorite pieces of information that they gave me was the advice about the applications and how to do well during an interview. I'm glad they thought to tell us about that.