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LS-391
7/25/19

Final Exam

Coming into the class I did not know what to expect, but I am glad I chose to take this class this summer. Right from the moment I walked in, I felt very comfortable with my classmates and Professor Gallardo. The tone of the class was welcoming and filled with positive energy, I was happy to go to class every day even though it was early in the morning. I enjoyed how the professor taught the class, every group effectively, and the final speakers who came in to talk about their story.

First of all, Ivan's story was very captivating and inspiring to hear every single detail he shared about his personal life and about his role as a teacher. Although we have completely different lives, I definitely learned so much after hearing his story. He had to live in Oaxaca without his parents for a few years after his parents came to the U.S in search for a better future. Five years after his parents came to the U.S, Ivan came here and began going to school. He was assigned to a 5th grade classroom where he struggled since he could not speak and understand english. Also, the teacher would assign so much homework every day, he would spend so much time trying to complete it. He's a perfect example of resilience because he was able to continue his education regardless of his difficulty with english. He mentioned how he spent 6-7 years at Hartnell College trying to figure out what he wanted to do for the rest of his life. Ultimately, he decided to major in Liberal Studies to become a teacher.

It was really interesting to hear how he got hired to a 5th grade class at Arroyo Seco Elementary School only a few weeks after he graduated. He was searching for a job as a substitute teacher however, his teacher helped him look for a job and then found a teaching

position for Ivan at this elementary, thought it was perfect position for him. He was hired right away without any teaching experience and without a teaching credential. His life changed so fast in the best way, he was given a great opportunity to begin his career as a teacher, even though he didn't feel prepared to teach a 5th grade class. His story definitely demonstrates the critical teacher shortage in our communities, schools are willing to hire young people with no experience to teach at their schools. Ivan is so lucky to have had this opportunity right after he graduated, I hope I'm as lucky as him to be hired at a local elementary school.

Even though he was thrown into a classroom with no teaching experience, he felt confident with the students and he prepared a bit by watching videos on youtube. His philosophy is to simply 'love your students', it's important to support them, love them and make them feel special. He wants his students to feel comfortable in the classroom while also learning. He mentioned how the principal gave him a list of names of the children who were considered as the 'bad kids', however he chose not to read it and treat every single student with respect and fairness. As the time went by, parents began to change their students to his classroom because they notice that his students truly enjoyed being part of his class. After asking him about his rule in regards to homework assignments, he mentioned that he does not assign homework to students, the only thing he does ask his students to do is to read for 30 minutes every day. He wants them to enjoy their free time at home with their families. He gives them a reading log where they record the book they read every day and allows them to read any book they want according to their reading level. Overall, his first year teaching was full of lessons and adjustments that will somehow help him become an even greater teacher as time goes by.

After hearing Ivan's story, I feel very happy for him because after everything he has been through, he's now becoming a great teacher and role model for not only his students but also for other people like me. He definitely deserves to be where he is right now, he has worked so hard to learn English, complete all his assignments in school despite his issues with the language and managed to graduate from CSUMB as a Liberal Studies major after spending several years at Hartnell College not knowing what to do as a career. I assumed that one of the reasons why he doesn't assign any homework assignment besides reading for 30 minutes, is due to all the homework Ivan was assigned when he was in 5th grade. In a way, he does not want his students to struggle as much as he did when he was in 5th grade. It's great to see that he's creating ways for his students to learn without giving them so much homework which in many cases causes students to really hate school. I know that he will continue to find new ways to teach and become a better teacher for his students.

I truly enjoyed how this class wasn't like most of all the classes where the teacher simply lectures throughout the entire class. Each group was in charge of presenting the content of the chapter they were assigned to the class in a different way. To be honest, the class was never boring to me due to the amount of information I learned every day and also the way the class was taught. I wish more professors were just like Professor Gallardo, fun, respectful, creative, supportive and simply an amazing professor who creates different ways to engage his students in debatable and interesting group discussions. The most interesting and new thing we did in this class was definitely the interview, which was something new to me because I had never shared personal life with anybody. I wasn't the only one who was nervous or scared to do it, we all had different reasons to not share certain things about ourselves and our lives. Even though it was

new to me, I'm glad we all had to do this because it was a great way to truly get to know each other. We could relate to each other one way or another, which made us feel closer and be more understanding of each other. It was hard to share my life, but I know that as time goes by it will be easier to share this type of information with others. This activity definitely proves the idea that we should not judge others without personally getting to know someone. In addition, this activity helped me realize that it might not be a bad idea to take advantage of the services provided on campus, to speak and share anything that I might be going through with a professional because it will help me feel better. It's important to be less judgemental and more respectful and open minded when it comes to meeting new people, it's not okay to judge someone simply by looking at their appearance. Every person in this class had their own unique story which made this class in fact diverse. Also, I really enjoyed meditating on the beach because I definitely felt better afterwards, I will consider meditating more often in the future. Finally, the baby shower was so much fun and it was a great way to interact with one another outside of class, it was filled with so much fun and laughter. If I could I would take this class once again, only if Professor Gallardo taught it of course. These four weeks definitely went by so fast, but were filled with laughter, knowledge, activities and so much more.

After hearing the final speakers, I definitely have my own idea of what I want to do when I become a teacher and the type of teacher I want to be. Based on Ivan's story, I will take into consideration all of the teachers I've had and how they taught, to make sure I don't make the same mistakes they made. I want to be a fun, creative, supportive and loving teacher with her students, I will find ways to teach them and make them feel special in every way. I hope my students understand that they can count on me for anything because after all teachers are

basically 'parents' to their students since they are responsible of the children's education. I will also treat all of my students equally to make sure not one of them feels left out. Also, I may need to look at some youtube videos just like Ivan does, but at least it will help me become a better teacher by finding new ways to teach and fun activities to use in class. It's important to form strong relationships with the students' parents to easily communicate throughout the school year anything regarding to the students' education. After working with children who had problems with English, I will definitely do everything I can to make sure those students get the support and help they need to avoid falling behind in class. Every school should provide tutors for these students to help them succeed in school just like any other student.

In conclusion, I just want to thank all of my classmates for being amazing and obviously Professor Gallardo because believe or not you're an amazing role model to the class. I hope I have your energy when I become a teacher and that my students respect me and appreciate me just as much as I respect and appreciate you. I'm very excited to have you as my professor once again for LS-398 in the fall. See you soon. Once again thank you.