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Teacher Snapshot

I am fortunate to say that through my kindergarten through twelfth grade years I have only experienced very few bad teachers. One way to describe my life as a student would be easy. I am grateful to be a student who enjoys school and can achieve the higher grades in my academics. That doesn't exclude the times that I have struggled and had to develop my best habits to learn. However with the variety of teachers I have encountered over the years I am able to reflect upon their strengths and struggles of being a teacher.

There is a teacher I find hard to forget, considering I barely passed fifth grade and I have been an A and B student all through my academic years. My fifth grade teacher aspired to be a police officer one day. I believe he was more concerned about impressing my classmates with his muscles and strength than educating the class. There was a time I recall him picking up a student to do bicep curls with. He would have kids punch his abdomen as hard as they could to prove how strong he was. It is hard to think of the way he taught because those memories have stood out the most till this day. When it came to asking for help, it was pointless. I struggled in math more than anything. I would work up the courage to ask for help and he would explain the problem to me. He would ask if I had understood the problem after and I would say yes even though I was more confused than before.

However there were a couple incidents that I found exciting and original to my other classes. I remember at the beginning of the year, each student had to bring a bag of five different items that represented them. At the time it was terrifying, however looking back at it now I can see it was a great icebreaker. It also exposed us to speaking in front of our classmates. Another recollection I have of fifth grade is right before Christmas break. We had gotten permission to do a secret Santa as a class. To be able to be a student and participate in something like that is rare. Even though he has been my worst teacher so far, I can use this experience to my advantage as I explore my image in this profession. After that school year I was grateful enough to have a particular teacher the next year that would be the total opposite.

Math finally clicked for me because of my sixth grade math teacher. Personality wise, she was stern most of the time to keep the students in order. However there were times in class that she would show bits of her humor that made her comforting. As I said before, I had a hard time with math, especially with the material becoming more advanced. It might have been the second quarter of the school year, when both my parents and my teacher noticed my struggling. That is when it was decided to move my seat to the front of the classroom. There was a time that I remember taking notes during a lesson. The teacher was using the projector to write out the lesson examples. During that process I wasn't comprehending the steps. She saw the confusion on my face and called me out in the middle of the lesson. My teacher had stopped the lesson to answer my questions. She confronted me to make sure I understood the material before moving forward. If it wasn't for those moments of confrontation, I don't think I would be academically confident in learning. Since then, math has been my favorite subject. I might have not been the only student who was having a hard time in class but she showed dedication to helping me excel. That experience has made me consider becoming a teacher because I would like to experience

seeing kids have concepts finally click for them too. It was a great feeling to have a teacher grow to know when I was having a hard time understanding a concept.

One of my least favorite subjects is history. Every history class I have had so far has been uninteresting, except one. My 11th grade government teacher had made the class quite interesting. He was very passionate about what he taught because he taught with such enthusiasm. My teacher was also very interactive with technology. We would use iPads to do class polls. He had us try and balance the government budget online as an assignment. These activities help relate to current events and help us have a better understanding as well. Overall this class compared to other history classes, this government class had the students interacting about 80% of the time. There was always discussion questions to go over in class. I would have to say that I contained more material from that course than any other history class. One of the most memorable events that occurred was when the teacher had set up to have an army veteran come to talk about his experiences in Afghanistan. The speaker was a field medical nurse in Afghanistan who was able to share a few stories of his experiences there. He was also able to bring in some gear that they use in the Army like his equipment and uniform. The topics we interacted with were relatable to the current events.

The best experiences I have had, have been with teachers who are truly dedicated to the subject they teach. These people want to inspire and have students engaged in the classroom. Some teachers would go the extra mile to have one on one with students if they need it. Perhaps some teachers want to really engage the class. Depending on the subject matter, there has been great advances to using technology in the classrooms. It could mean finding a great documentary or a great game online that simulates a current event. There are great tools to assist in student

learning for the different learning types. Textbook learning is something that should be used minimally. It's going to take more than a textbook for a student to excel.