EDUC 463: Methods—Teaching Language Arts Dr. Pam Coke

Self-Evaluation Fall, 2013

Student: Anna Haschke

**Please evaluate your own contributions to this course:**

**Lead one large group discussion (10 points):**

***English Journal* Article:**

For my EJ article I chose “Speaking Truth to Power: Our American Future: Creating Critical Citizens in a Democratic Nation” by Amanda Pepper. I prepared guiding quotes and discussion questions for my peers to discuss first in small groups and then as a large group. After that, I had everyone write down an idea for incorporating post-apocalyptic and dystopian texts in the classroom which I intend on scanning and having Pam post on the class page for all to access for ideas in the future. I think the discussion went really well!

**Individual Assignments (40 points):**

***Philosophy of Teaching Statement (20 points):***

It was really hard writing my teaching philosophy statement starting from nothing and not really having any background in thinking about this kind of thing, but Pam did a great job of giving us things to think about and a format to follow which really helped me. I think my philosophy statement would have been better if I had had more time to think about it, but we had the deadline of turning in our student teaching applications to meet. I definitely appreciated the chance to revise my statement after Pam gave me feedback. The final version I turned in was a lot better, and I was very pleased with it. I do recognize, however, that while I was happy with the teaching philosophy statement I produced at the time, my teaching philosophy is going to change over time as I gain more experience, so this philosophy of teaching statement will be a constant work in progress.

***Mini-Lesson (20 points):***

Topic: My grammar mini-lesson topic was on sentence variation. I used *Teaching Grammar Through Writing* by Polette for inspiration when coming up with a topic. Polette was very helpful for getting the idea and providing examples, but I came up with the anticipatory set and writing exercise on my own. I think teaching the lesson to my peers went well. They gave me some good feedback to consider for future mini-lessons. Fifteen minutes goes by so quickly!

**Professional Learning Community (70 points):**

***Weekly PLC Meetings (60 points):***

I was present for all of our PLC group meetings and did my best to play an active role during our discussions about the educational blogs by coming prepared to class having explored the blogs and offering comments and questions when we talked about them.

***Action Plan Template (10 points):***

I was present for all of our PLC group meetings when we discussed and filled out our Action Plan templates. I offered ideas for our action plan and was an active participant in all of the discussions.

**Yearlong plan (105 points):**

I spent a lot of time on this project, and I was very pleased with the product I produced. Of course, there were still some things to add and revise, but overall, I think I did a good job. My Yearlong Plan is something I see myself going back to over the next few years of teaching, and revising it to fit the individual classroom settings I find myself in.

**Unit plan (100 points):**

I put a lot of time into this project as well. I think it was a little easier for me than the Yearlong Plan just because I had the idea for this unit plan marinating in my mind the entire time I was creating my Yearlong Plan. I am very pleased with my final product for this assignment as well. Some personal criticism I have for myself is that I should have paced myself a little better, but I’m going to cut myself some slack because I did finish on time, I did not sacrifice quality despite cutting it closer to the deadline that I would have liked, and I had a lot of obligations for other classes and marching band right around this time, so I was going to be busy no matter what. The Unit Plan is another assignment I see being a work in progress over the years as I adapt it to fit individual classroom settings I find myself in. Such an opportunity is already upon me this winter break as I adapt my Unit Plan for my student teaching placement this spring semester.

**Comments:**

I had a fantastic time in Pam’s Methods course! I truly feel that everything we did in class had a purpose and helped me become better prepared for student teaching and beyond. I learned SOOO much from all the assignments and activities we were given, and I am truly grateful for this educational experience.

**Grade:** Based on the amount of effort I put into this course, my attendance, active participation, and the quality of work I produced, I can confidently say I believe I have earned an “A” in Methods.

**Due:** Wednesday, December 18, 2013; please upload to your Weebly with your Unit Plan.