

Louise Batten June 6, 2022

Prompt: describe an experience working with youth and how it influenced your decision to be a teacher.

I worked in the Olympia schools as a Classified Substitute (para-educator) for five years. I enjoyed working in a variety of different schools; mostly I wanted to see how I felt about a prospective career in teaching, as I had been interested in a career in teaching earlier in life; and whether I liked being at the schools.

I worked at many different schools, elementary, middle schools and high schools and the different grade levels. I found that I preferred the elementary schools, because this is where so many children don't get the help that they need. By that I don't mean teaching them about sex and politics. I mean helping them and helping families.

Perhaps my interest in developmental psychology and education will help young people i.e. children to learn those subjects that are needed to become a positive influence and a loyal American citizen. and I believe that teaching children is not only relatively easy, but also that it is imperative for children to begin learning at an early age. Without a positive experience during their elementary years in school; learning for them, and later learning will be made much harder.

I was once offered a permanent position as a Teacher's Assistant. I decided that I would rather be the teacher, and learn how to make a curriculum, lesson plans, and begin using educational strategies. This includes special education assessment, and participation in the school and the wider community, as well.

My resume includes a general description of the tasks I performed when I worked for the Public School's Personnel Cooperative. Included in these were conducting a class one day when the teacher was unexpectedly absent. I worked in the front office a few times. Tasking included taking attendance rolls, helping with counseling students who were late or had other problems (attending to them, sitting with them to discuss personal issues, etc.) We also worked with students who were given a "time-out"; and working in the "homeless classroom", where students might be given a choice of whether to read, play a game, or just relax; before getting to their first class for the day.

Admission Questions

1. I would like to continue to work within the school setting, and begin learning how to teach, how to organize my own curriculum and make lesson plans that follow an outline for the curriculum. I want to further my education, and work within the public schools using basic educational theory. I want to learn how I can help students by planning according to what they are interested in, and capable of learning in addition to emphasizing basic skills. For example students from diverse backgrounds will often use a personal home dialog; English as a second language, or integrating students with disabilities into the general education classroom whenever possible.
2. I have always loved learning. This was often the case in school, but also I enjoyed learning about people in other countries, since my family traveled quite a lot. My family was well educated and this was considered important for a life of financial success. But personal wealth and success are not the only things that matter in this world. Learning is a process. I believe that we are leaving our children behind with such a strong emphasis on technology and digital learning. Students need to acquire skills for understanding, knowledge, appreciation of American History, our behaviors shared or diverse, and the importance of personal values and preferences. They must learn to learn, this we learn from others, not in spite of them.
Elementary teaching differs from the other two levels of public education in that children are at a stage where their learning can often depend on simple instruction and repetition. Virtues such as honesty, modesty, and gratitude may be new to them and students can learn through simple instruction, attendance, as well as good manners, plain spoken English and written, and so much more.

3. When a society is centered on personal and corporate wealth, the benefits of social institutions such as public education seem to disappear from public discourse. Some teachers try to introduce their own personal beliefs as a way to help students to learn. The United States is focused on mass media as the most important form of communication. This has been and should continue to be the educational system. Our lives are totally dominated by advertising, radical theories and the mass media. This has got to stop. But beneath it all is that so many have chosen personal and financial success over ethical. Living in a way they have given up. And I find the use of the word "unfair" in this question to be inappropriate.