

## Gabriela Montes for MiT; Prompt B Response

The area I intend to teach upon completion of the Master in Teaching program will be Elementary K-8. I truly feel that my life experiences have built upon each other in a way that will allow me to easily transition into a formal educator of young students. Not only do I have some base knowledge of early childhood and elementary education knowledge acquisition from a scholarly standpoint, I also have first hand experience in classrooms and with young children. Apart from that, I have had much positive social input from educators, family, and friends that point out how well suited I am for a career in elementary education. While the former may not seem like much, it adds a layer of belief in myself that I am pursuing a suitable path for my own character.

To expand upon my strengths in preparation let me go into a bit more detail about the first hand work I have done in classrooms. To fulfill my Bachelor in Early Childhood Development requirements I completed many hours of field work in daycares/preschools, headstarts, elementary schools, as well as teaching English abroad in China with a variety of ages. These experiences allowed me to observe and reflect on students and teachers, to plan age appropriate activities, make lesson plans, get guidance from those teachers I worked under, and take in the behind the scenes reality of what makes different classrooms run effectively. I have also worked with preschools and elementary schools in paid positions outside of what has been necessary for coursework that has given me even more insight into the roles and responsibilities that teachers take on. Perhaps my greatest strengths in life experiences that have prepared me for this career are what motherhood has taught me! I have two kids, currently one is almost 3 and the other is 4, and they have undeniably taught me the true impact that their first teachers- parents- have on the developing minds of young children. Seeing firsthand how my actions or inactions can shape them, directly or indirectly, has opened my eyes in a whole new way. Undoubtedly teachers, especially in the K-8 realm, can also have this kind of powerful impact on students.

Some areas of growth that I need in relation to real life experiences in education would definitely be just more experience in K-8 classrooms settings. Learning the before, during, and after- meaning what it takes from the start of the school year through to the end; how to set up a classroom most efficiently, how to plan lessons that align with standards, and how to work with different types of learners all in the same classroom. I need first hand experiences doing these things under supervision so that I am able to confidently do it on my own eventually.

Moving forward, my next plans include getting into this program and basically ‘diving in head first!’ I will need to figure out how to balance work life, childcare, and schoolwork, but as a newly single mother to my two little ones I am very determined to make it work. I know that I need to not only be able to provide them with a sustainable, not paycheck to paycheck, life in the

future, I want to make them proud of their mother, and most of all I want to have a career that has been in the making for a long time and that I know will fulfill me.