

Prompt B: Look over what area you intend to teach and indicate how your **life experience** has prepared you to teach in this area. This should match the endorsement area you indicate in your application. Name your strengths in preparation, areas needing growth, and plans for next steps.

My life experiences have uniquely prepared me to teach high school social studies. I grew up in an extremely impoverished small town and went through a K-12 public education that showed me the best of educators working to serve their students and communities. My experiences with classmates who were experiencing homelessness and other economic hardships molded my view of classmates as more than just fellow students but as individuals with struggles I could not understand, but with which I could empathize. I saw firsthand how our public education system was failing some of my classmates and how it took special teachers not only to identify the struggles of their students while also making classwork feel relevant.

During my undergraduate years, I was able to act as a tutor and teaching assistant for numerous subjects. These experiences taught me how to encourage student learning and discovery through lines of inquiry instead of merely delivering answers. Following graduation, I interned for the Montana Democratic Party. My time there gave me unique experience as an active member in our nation's political system at the state level. Seeing how participatory democracy played out in the real world, not just in a textbook, granted me invaluable experience that furthered my passion for politics that serve the people.

I have worked with all ages of volleyball players on and off over the past decade. I have been an assistant coach, a volunteer, and a referee. All of these roles have required different levels of involvement with middle school and high school girls. Coaching allowed me the opportunity to build mentor-based relationships with girls, requisite my development as a future

high school teacher. I look forward to continuing to make meaningful relationships with students in and out of the classroom.

I am excited to pursue my Master's in Teaching at The Evergreen State to become a high school social studies teacher. Because most of my experience in a classroom teaching is with college-age students, I look forward to the amount of classroom hours the MiT grants. This degree will prepare me to teach in a high school setting, using my academic background and invaluable hours of in-person experience in the day-to-day workings of a high school classroom. I hope to be able to instill a passion for learning and caring about the world, as my teachers did for me. In preparation for the program, I am spending one day a week in a high school social studies classroom. This experience will continue to prepare me to teach. I am grateful for the ability to observe and learn from a skilled educator at a school that serves an economically and socially diverse group of students. I have already greatly benefited from insights into classroom management, the use of technology in the classroom, and adjusting lesson plans to meet the diverse needs of a class. I look forward to continuing to develop my own pedagogies while learning from amazing educators as I prepare to someday have my own classroom.