

ENDORSEMENT CHECKLIST ESSAY – Sally Lopercio

Reviewing my completed endorsement checklist for the Elementary Education Endorsement, I can confidently say that my previous experiences have prepared me well for teaching in this area. This combines previous college education, real life & volunteer work and AmeriCorps national service experiences.

Preparation Through Coursework:

1. **Subject Matter Expertise:** My coursework in mathematics, including Intro. to Algebra from The Art Institute of Seattle, has provided a foundational understanding of college level math concepts. Merchandising Buying Techniques & Buying Seminar courses provided additional mathematic tools needed to work in the Corporate Retail environment; such as in my role with Nordstrom Corporate.
2. **Arts Education:** My background in arts, including courses like Color and Composition and Fashion Illustration has equipped me with creative skills beneficial for engaging students through visual arts. These courses have fostered an appreciation for artistic expression, which I can integrate into my teaching methods to enhance student creativity and engagement.
3. **Science and Social Studies:** My science knowledge comes from a course in psychology, which, while valuable, does not fully address the broader science curriculum required for elementary education. To fill this gap, I will complete additional science credits at a local community college before the program start date. In social studies, my coursework in Business Fundamentals and Economics and Global Business Applications has provided a foundation, but I also draw upon my AmeriCorps VISTA experience, which involved working with local native communities and learning about regional Pacific Northwest history, to supplement my understanding.
4. **Children's Literature:** Although I have significant life experience from AmeriCorps service and volunteering as a parent, which involved engagement with literature for children and youth, my formal coursework in children's literature is limited. I plan to expand my knowledge in this area through further volunteer work, during the 2024-2025 school year, and by engaging in professional development opportunities focused on children's literature.
5. **Language Structure:** My coursework in communication and composition has provided strong writing and analytical skills. These are essential for effective lesson planning and communication with students and parents. Courses such as English Composition and Business Research and Writing have honed my writing abilities, which will be valuable in developing instructional materials and assessments.

Plans for Development:

To address the gaps in my coursework, I am committed to completing additional credits, in science for example. I will also seek out professional development opportunities and additional volunteer experiences to enhance my knowledge in children's literature and elementary education practices. My goal is to ensure a well-rounded approach to teaching that incorporates both my academic background and practical experiences.

In conclusion, my coursework has laid a solid foundation for my endorsement in elementary education, with strengths in arts, language structure, and social studies. I am proactive in addressing areas for improvement by pursuing further education and leveraging my life experiences to provide a rich and engaging learning environment for my future students.