

Title of Session: Teachers in Training
Moderator: Mary Thompson
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Room: Teachers in Training Group

BJB2: welcome, everyone! Here for teachers in training?

MaryFT: my name is Mary Thompson and I'm a professor of education at the University of Houston

BJB2: Welcome to today's Teachers in Training discussion

MaryFT: please introduce yourselves - we have a very big group tonight

BJB2: where are you located and what do you teach or hope to teach?

BJB2: I'm a communication teacher in Pennsylvania

PatrickS: I'm Patrick Smith, a masters student at Concordia U

JimSG: Portland, OR- English/Social Studies

JosiahL: Josiah Lute, Portland, OR. Want to teach middle school

BethanyN: I'm Bethany and I'm also a Masters student at COncordia, Portland OR

JosiahL: all subjs

JessieH: Jessie. Portland, Oregon high school religion.

TamiAR: I'm Tami Ann Reinhardt, also a student at Concordia. I hope to teach art to high school students.

JorgeAR: Los Angeles CA - Social Studies

JuliaDG: I am in Southern California, and I teach 6th grade math and science

AndreaDB: I'm Andrea, also from CU in Portland, OR. I would like to teach English/German

BethanyN: High School, Theater, Language Arts

RodHe: I'm Rod Heiser, Concordia as well. I'd like to teach Social Studies/Language Arts

KevilinaB: Kevilina- communications flunky and Eng HS teacher wanna-be

EnidLa: Hi! I'm Enid and I teach English lit., World lit, Pre-Algebra, Journalism, Yearbook and Bible in a tiny school.

KayllieL: I'm Kayllie, - Concordia, Portland, OR. I would like to teach HS Science & Math

EnidLa: Oh yeah, all in high school!

MaryFT: so...I thought our topic tonight could be student teaching

WayneRS: Medford, Or High School

MaryFT: most of my students are just finishing their student teaching experience

PatrickS: excellent

MaryFT: some were thrilled with the experience...others, not so much

JenniferLB: Medford, Or. High School Biology and Health and Physical Education

PatrickS: I am very anxious about it

MaryFT: so for those of you who have experienced student teaching - what was your experience

KevilinaB: some decided they might not want to become teachers?

JuliaDG: I really enjoyed my student teaching experience

MaryFT: and for those of you getting ready for it - what do you most want out of the experience?

MaryFT: not this semester Kevilina but it has happened in the past

MaryFT: what made it enjoyable Julia?

JosiahL: my ex-boss decided not to after her horrible experience as a student teacher

BJB2 wonders what key ingredients contribute to a successful student teaching experience?

PatrickS: I taught esl in a certificate class - it was chaotic and very hard. I would like to feel prepared after my student teaching experience

JorgeAR: An Open mind

JuliaDG: I had a lot of support from my supervisor and my cooperating teachers

PatrickS: preparation - guidance

JorgeAR: I did too; but there was a lot I didn't expect

MaryFT: some of my students got very frustrated with having to do everything the way that their supervising teacher did

BethanyN: I could see that being very difficult

MaryFT: particularly since they wanted to try out new techniques

PatrickS: do supervising teachers always require that?

MaryFT: I don't think so Patrick - it depends on the supervising teacher

JorgeAR: Supervising teachers shouldn't but I don't think they have much training to prepare

MaryFT: aha - I think Jorge has a good point

KevilinaB: oooo...maybe there can be a new degree called a TTP!

PatrickS: I just want to clearly understand the nuts and bolts of teaching - then I'm sure I can fly

BethanyN: I could see it being hard for the supervising teacher to spend extra time intertwining the student teacher's ideas, when they have an established lesson plan. Nobody likes extra work.

PatrickS: that's a good point, Bethany

MaryFT: I think so Bethany - I believe though that most supervising teachers are compensated a bit for their time

BethanyN: And is their role as supervising teacher voluntary?

PatrickS: that's heartening

BethanyN: Or is it expected of most teachers?

AndreaDB: It might also be that the teachers are ultimately responsible for student success. That might lead to apprehension about changing course.

MaryFT: in some cases they volunteer - in others they are chosen by their admins for the honor

JosiahL: oh

JosiahL: no pay though

JosiahL: good

BethanyN: Right- Andrea!

JorgeAR: In our district an administrator identifies someone who would be a good supervising teacher and the compensation is pretty small

MaryFT: indeed Andrea - particularly in a high-stakes testing environment

MaryFT nods to Jorge

JosiahL: so why do it?

JorgeAR: The love of teaching

PatrickS: someone must

MaryFT: but the reality of it is that you as students don't have much choice in who will be your supervisor

TamiAR: "For the Love of teaching"

JosiahL: but of course

JosiahL: how could we be involved?

PatrickS: so, acceptance is the key . .

TamiAR: After teaching for awhile I think I would be into it

BethanyN: For those who have student taught already- Do you teach in your preferred subject? Or are you kind of placed where ever?

JessieH: Concordia places you in your subject area

MaryFT: Perhaps your University has some sort of system for matching you with a compatible supervisor Josiah but for us it is based on grade level and subject area

BethanyN: nice

JessieH: you have to do practicum or student teach in those specific areas in order to get your license

PatrickS: it seems that if you are going for an endorsement in social studies - you'd be teaching that

JuliaDG: I have a multiple subject, so they placed me in an elementary school

MaryFT: yes, you are placed in your subject area and certification level

BethanyN: Well- if I'm going for theater, I doubt practicum will be an option . . .

TamiAR: at CU we teach in our preferred subject for student teaching

PatrickS: glad to hear it

BethanyN: Language Arts- Yes.

MaryFT: but who you will be working with is the bigger question

JessieH: Bethany, I'm sure they will place you in a drama class

JessieH: or a school with theater

MaryFT: how will you ensure that your experience is a good one?

PatrickS: will it do me any good to research the possible supervisors?

KayllieL: do your best- make every day the best you can

BJB2: welcome, Andrew.

AndreaDB: We are placed based on availability, I don't think we have much choice of our supervisors

MaryFT: doubtful - they might change from semester to semester and/or you will be placed where there is an opening

BJB2: we're discussing student teacher experiences

MaryFT: good positive outlook Kayllie

JuliaDG: I think the most important thing is to take each day in as a learning experience and reflect on what techniques and strategies you like or dislike

JorgeAR: Very good point Julia

MaryFT: I like that Julia

MaryFT: go beyond like or dislike though

PatrickS: yeah, it doesn't matter who supervises you - it will be a learning experience regardless

MaryFT: even if you dislike a technique you might be able to see the value in it

BethanyN: It's been helpful chatting- but I have to go. Good Night all!

JorgeAR: Good night

KayllieL: night

MaryFT: no problem Bethany

MaryFT: but I would argue Patrick that I think it does matter who supervises you

KayllieL: This student teaching discussion is really informative- I was a little anxious about it

MaryFT: I think a strong supervisor puts you on the road to being a strong teacher

PatrickS: but I mean - if I have no choice - I want to make the best . . .

MaryFT: but you also need to maintain your understanding of what makes a good teacher

PatrickS: ok

MaryFT: and sometimes that is difficult when you are faced with negative models day after day

JuliaDG: I agree, Mary.

PatrickS nods

MaryFT: research shows that students value what they see in the "real world" more than what they have learned in education classes

JeffC: Well people, I'm off to rehearsal... I'll lurk here till I time out.. keep on participating here!

PatrickS . o O (I hope I get a strong supervisor)

MaryFT waves to Jeff

PatrickS: g'night Jeff

MaryFT: thanks for introducing me to this group

RodHe: I'm off as well, thank you for the discussion and insights.

MaryFT: let me give you a practical example from my teaching experience

PatrickS: excellent

MaryFT: I teach technology integration courses at the University of Houston

MaryFT: students learn teaching techniques that integrate technology, they plan integrated lessons, etc

MaryFT: but they get to student teaching and see little to no technology used in the classroom

AndrewQ: this is true

PatrickS nods

MaryFT: for many this is disillusioning to the point that they no longer value the skills that they have

PatrickS: of course

PatrickS: some supervisors probably don't use tech at all!

JorgeAR: Mary is there any articulation btw your university and the schools students are placed in?

MaryFT: absolutely

MaryFT: but sometimes it doesn't work out quite the way it is supposed to

JorgeAR: So is the issue of tech broached

JorgeAR: True

AndrewQ: are supervisors the same thing as master teacher

MaryFT: and the students feel confused

PatrickS: apparently not, Andrew

MaryFT: not necessarily Andrew

MaryFT: this is an extreme example

JuliaDG: I had a university supervisor, and cooperating or master teachers, Andrew

AndrewQ: when I [was a] student teacher I had a supervisor from the university and a master teacher in the classroom

MaryFT: not intended to scare any of you

AndrewQ: my master teacher was great but trying to teach the tech that was taught to us in college to second graders was not going to happen

MaryFT: why not Andrew?

AndrewQ: building web pages, excel worksheets, etc.. with 2 computers in classroom

MaryFT: I believe that the student teaching situation is about give and take - that student teachers are definitely there to learn but that they also can teach a little themselves

JorgeAR: You're welcome

AndreaDB: yes

KevilinaB: ciao

MaryFT: a question of management of resources Andrew?

AndrewQ: I have been to some school where the campus has a computer lab and tech teacher for primary

AndrewQ: where whole group can be taught with a projector

AndrewQ: that way kids get the hands on

PatrickS: so, whether we teach or experience tech in our student teaching classrooms depends entirely on our supervisors?

AndrewQ: but most schools use computers for word processing, AR test,

AndrewQ: I think more on time and resources

MaryFT: I hope not Patrick - if you can figure out how to make constructive suggestions you might be able to add some technology

JorgeAR: I teach at a school with wireless connections and most teachers have an LCD projector

AndrewQ: that's what we are pushing for

JorgeAR: it's great for ppts and online activities

MaryFT nods to Jorge

JuliaDG: Most of the time, even when the technology resources aren't available in the classroom they are still available...just a matter of asking

MaryFT: very true Julia!

MaryFT: my students complete a technology scavenger hunt for just that reason

MaryFT: but...about student teaching

JorgeAR: That's how things got started at my school

MaryFT: go into it valuing your skills

MaryFT: be prepared to listen and work with your supervising teacher in a collegial relationship

MaryFT: don't be afraid to offer some of your own insights

MaryFT: sound good?

JorgeAR: great advice

PatrickS: I am definitely keeping those lines for posterity! thanks.

JuliaDG: it is good advice

MaryFT: and always know that you are on your way to having your own classroom - whatever the circumstance

PatrickS: I am going to have supper now - thank you Mary - and all. good night.

MaryFT: enjoy

MaryFT: It was really nice meeting you all - from Concordia right?

JuliaDG: I'm from California...

JuliaDG: but it was still nice meeting everyone!

JuliaDG: this is my first time in a discussion

MaryFT: wonderful Julia - glad you were here

JorgeAR: I concur and buena suerta for everyone starting this wonderful career

BJB2: all of you may want to join this group so you are subscribed to the discussion board

BJB2: this will give you access to all the members of the group if you have questions during your student teaching

MaryFT: I'd love to hear them

JorgeAR: I would need some guidance doing that BJ

AndrewQ: is that different from just being a member of tappedin

BJB2 gives guidance...

JuliaDG: how do I join?

BJB2: attach your chat

BJB2: go to File in the top left and attach

JuliaDG: ok

BJB2: then scroll down on the welcome note above this chat window

BJB2: to the sentence This is the group room for Teachers in Training

BJB2: click on the green i

BJB2: next to the group name

BJB2: you will see the group ID page

BJB2: click on Join this Group

BJB2: once you've joined, the group is added to your pull down favorite places menu...

BJB2: this allows you to come to this room from any location in Tapped In...

KayllieL: Thank you for a very informative discussion

AndrewQ: thanks

MaryFT: my pleasure Kayllie

KayllieL: I unfortunately have bid you all good night

MaryFT: thanks for your input

BJB2: as a member of the group you can post to the discussion board and add resources

BJB2: any questions?

BJB2 thinks the discussion is pretty much winding down

AndrewQ: I do

JorgeAR: how do I get transcript of this exciting discussion?

MaryFT listens to Andrew

AndrewQ: I did join this discussion board

MaryFT: the transcript will be automatically sent to your email Jorge

JuliaDG: I have successfully joined...

JorgeAR: Great because I want to share with the new teachers I work with

MaryFT: be sure to check your SPAM folder if it doesn't show up

AndrewQ: well Mary, you just answered my question

MaryFT: I'm glad it was helpful Jorge

BJB2 . o O (part of the requirements for helpdesk are mindreading, Andrew)

AndrewQ: ha

BJB2 hugs Mary...thanks for leading the discussion!

MaryFT: I love to do it Bj

JorgeAR: Thanks Mary - great job

JuliaDG: thank you for the great discussion

BJB2 waves goodnight. Next teachers in training will be in January

AndrewQ: any tips on tech that is easily integrated Mary

MaryFT: you're so welcome

JorgeAR: Good night

JuliaDG: good night

MaryFT: I teach a whole class on it Andrew

MaryFT: take a look at <http://www.coe.uh.edu/courses/cuin3111>

BJB2: Mary has led some archived discussions on the topic...

BJB2: you also might want to look at www.tappedin.org/transcripts

MaryFT: there are mini-activities that can be integrated into all subject areas and grade levels

MaryFT: that too...thanks Bj

BJB2 waves goodnight. Take care!

AndrewQ: ok thanks

AndrewQ: it is just a challenge to get everyone involved

MaryFT nods

AndrewQ: when I have to show 33 students one by one

AndrewQ: well thanks for all your help

MaryFT: that's really a question of classroom management

MaryFT: try grouping students and allowing more proficient students to serve as class experts

MaryFT: I'm headed out - it was nice meeting you!