CI 412W Mentor Interview

The following activity is constructed in relation to your meeting with and getting to know your 495 mentor. The activity also falls during the second week of attendance to your placement—4 visits into your teaching experience. During these visits you have likely made observations of classroom practices, structures, interactions, and more. You may even be forming initial impressions as well as discerning a “philosophy of teaching” operating in your mentor’s classroom. These observations, impressions, and emerging understandings of philosophical orientations will necessarily inform what you will seek to know and understand about your role in your mentor’s classroom.

Finally we ask, for this task, that you think carefully about what it is that you want and need to know about this classroom teacher and her/his students with respect to your own personal & professional growth as an educator.

Here’s the assignment:

1. Aside from the most obvious ones (years/locations/subjects/grade levels of teaching), create a short list of 3-5 questions designed to provide you with specific information that will help you to succeed in your 495 relationship with your assigned mentor and her/his students.

2. Arrange a mutually agreeable time/place for this interview to take place.

3. Write a descriptive narrative of what you have learned from the interview that follows the format below:

   • Name of mentor, location of school, courses and grade levels that you will teach with her/his supervision, etc.
   • Date/time/location/specific questions used in the interview
   • Descriptive synthesis of your understanding and first impressions of your 495 teaching and learning expectations resulting from this interview. [Note: In this section of the write-up, take care to note both factual details as well as personal impressions of what lies ahead for you based upon this interview.]

NOTE: Do NOT provide a write-up that follows the interview format, itself -- Question 1, Answer 1; Question 2, Answer 2; etc.

Due: 26 February, 2009 (To be submitted in class)