

RDG 370/380/390

Reflection



INSTRUCTIONS: Your reflections are to be written to reveal your personal thoughts/experiences with regard to being a *volunteer in the classrooms here at Reaves Elementary School*. The object of this assignment is to synthesize what you have learned in this course with your personal knowledge and experience. The reflection is to be approximately one page in length, typewritten, single-spaced with the 4 (four) paragraph headings below. I've written several questions to help focus your thoughts in each paragraph. You don't have to answer each question, but they should help guide your ideas for each paragraph. There are **NO RIGHT ANSWERS HERE**. I want to know **YOUR** true thoughts.

PREVIOUS PERCEPTIONS: This semester, you did extensive service in the school—tutoring youngsters, teaching classes, working with small groups, etc. You have served the community of Conroe (the parents, the teachers, and the children) by doing well over 60 hours of service. At the *beginning* of the semester (when you were first told about working in the school), were you uneasy about the service component of the course? Had you previously volunteered in your community before taking this course? If so, where and what did you do? (Give a specific example.) If not, why not? Do you think all “citizens” have a responsibility to serve their community?

LINK BETWEEN THEORY AND PRACTICE: Did the service in the school in this course help you apply the subject matter in a real world situation? Did it help you better understand the material in the textbook? Do you think you would have learned more from this course if more time were spent in the classroom lecturing/discussing the textbooks instead of doing/discussing the work you did in the school? Do you think this idea of combining volunteering in the community with university coursework/material should be (or shouldn't be) practiced in more classes?

LONG TERM IMPACT: How has the service you gave in the school helped you become more aware of the needs in your community? Do you think you will (or won't) volunteer in the community after this course? Do you believe that you can make a difference in the world? Will you continue to volunteer after this course? Did the service component in this course assist you in defining the work that you would want to do/pursue in the future? Do you think that the service component in this course has made you more marketable?

CONCLUSION: Do you think participating/interacting with the students, teachers, and parents here at Reaves Elementary School helped you enhance your leadership skills and helped improve your communication skills? Did working this service component help you define your personal strengths and weaknesses? Now at the *end* of the semester, do you think that the service aspect of this course was valuable? Would you recommend this class (with its high level of service) to others? Do you think and/or feel you have made a difference in a child's life?

SEND THIS REFLECTION BY EMAIL TO DR. MCCAULEY: mccauley@shsu.edu