

Kaley Casagrande

E-Portfolio

Teaching Reflection

3 December 2020

Teaching Dance Technique Reflection

Having the opportunity to teach in the local communities this Fall Semester and the past Spring semester, as well as among my peers at Muhlenberg College has truly taught me the importance of leadership inside of a classroom setting as well as a community in general. Through my Teaching Dance Technique class this Fall semester taught by Heidi Cruz-Austin I have learned the importance of planning and delivery, communication, as well as strategic thinking strategies.

The main assignment in this class is to create weekly lesson plans for two different style dances at two different levels. We spent 12 of our 15 weeks creating these plans in which all of us students would turn around and use in our own teaching practices either in our hometowns or virtually through a class at Muhlenberg. Due to the COVID-19 situation leaving us to remote learning, I was lucky enough to use my hometown part-time teaching job as my teaching experience to work through in my Technique class this Fall. Each week I was able to implement my lesson plans created in class and bring all of the amazing feedback from my Professor to the table while teaching my classes here in my hometown.

From creating these lesson plans and implementing them, I truly learned the value in the planning and delivery that goes into being a leader, especially to young children. They rely on me to know what I am doing, and find security in that, and so being prepared through planning has really helped me. My communication skills have developed more than ever from my teaching experience as well, especially as I am finding new ways to communicate through Zoom as you see in my little snippet. Not all children understand how to express themselves at a young

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age, and so having different approaches to communicate with them by being calm and having patience is what I have found to be the most effective. Teaching, if nothing else, has shown me how to be patient and more caring for others. Lastly, I have learned that sometimes students just are uninterested or have a very hard time with the exercises that you are giving them, if this is the case, it is best to be able to quickly transition into a new exercise. This is something that I have learned and improved in this semester by creating lesson plans, because I had an entire list in front of me of other exercises I could move onto with my students.

What you will see in the clip I attached above this reflection is my Teaching Dance “Lab” to my peers in my class. Due to the fact that they all cannot come and observe me teach in my hometown, we were all given the opportunity to teach a class of our preferred style and level, this way I was able to get feedback from both my Professor and peers. This was a Beginner Modern class, and I taught it parallel to the classes I teach at this level and style in my hometown.