

If you satisfied your field experience in multiple sites, list at most three of those sites. List the site where you spent the most time first, etc.

#Name the first site - school building, agency, institution - and give the city in which the site is located.

Harmony Intermediate School, Harmony, Ohio

Name the second site - school building, agency, institution - and give the city in which the site is located.

No answer specified

Name the third site - school building, agency, institution - and give the city in which the site is located.

No answer specified

#Type of site:

Check all that apply.

- Grades 4-8
- Inclusion Classroom

#Total field hours:

- 25 to 29

Field Diversity

#Students/adults with whom I was in contact at this site are diverse based on the following:

Check all that apply.

- Gender
- Socioeconomic
- Exceptionality

#What adjustment(s) in your behavior did/or will you make based on your experience with the diverse students and/or adults at this site? (OSTP: 1.4, 1.5, 5.1 and CF: R1A, R1D, R3B, R4A, R6A)

Tutoring at Harmony Intermediate School undoubtedly provided me with an opportunity to teach in a diverse environment. All of the students in Mrs. Millburn's class were unique in their own way, whether it was due to differences in gender, socioeconomic status, or exceptionality. As a result of my field experience, I have learned many important things about teaching (or tutoring) in an environment with such diverse students. For example, I spent time using the computer as I tutored each student, letting them solve practice problems and play games pertaining to long division. However, some of the students struggled when using the computer, not knowing when to use the mouse or what many of the keys on the keyboard meant. It became very clear to me that differences in socioeconomic status can play a large role in issues such as this one. As a result, in the future, I will be sure to consider

such differences when planning lessons and assigning homework or projects, making sure that every student has an equal opportunity to succeed, regardless of his/her socioeconomic status.

Another behavior that I adjusted in my field experience, and will adjust for future situations, is wanting to spend equal time with both exceptional and non-exceptional students. After determining that some of the students I was tutoring were actually exceptional at math and division, I found myself wanting to spend more time with those students because they seemed to better understand what I was trying to help them with. As a result, they did better on the practice problems and quizzes that I gave them. However, I soon realized that even though I enjoyed seeing those students excel, I needed to spend more time with the students who were still having some problems with division. As I spent more time with these students, they gradually improved in their skills, showing that patience and time can have a dramatic effect on a student's ability to learn.

I also learned in the time I spent tutoring that gender differences are also important to consider. As most people know, females mature before males. This became very apparent as I observed how differences in gender at a young age can affect how a student learns. After taking this into account, I decided to only work with girls at one time, and boys at another. Working with both of them at the same time ended in disruption or disagreement. However, I need to learn to adjust to this difference a little more, for I plan on teaching in co-ed classrooms. This experience definitely provided me with the insight I need on approaching gender differences.

By working in such a diverse environment, I learned that no matter where I teach, I will encounter a variety of differences between students. Therefore, by understanding them and learning to adjust to them now, I will be able to become a more effective teacher and provide each of my students with an equal and beneficial education.

Field Activities

List your four major activities during this experience. Ex. observation, tutoring, assisting in instruction, participating in non-instructional activities, developing instructional materials, micro-teaching, counseling, planning lessons, evaluating instruction, interviewing teaches, contacting parents, etc.

1.

Observation

2.

Planning Lessons

3.

Developing Instructional Materials

4.

Tutoring

Reflection in Action

Reflect on your experience. Using the activities as your basis, specifically describe how you developed as pre-service teacher. (OSTP: 4.2, 4.4, 6.1, 7.2, 7.3 and CF: R1D, R4A, R6A)

During the first couple sessions of my field experience, I spent most of the time observing the instructor and how the class responded to her teaching in various ways. Through my observations, I realized that my instructor split the class time into learning the new material, and then doing a variety of activities based on the material. As I began tutoring, I, too, decided to split some of the time into teaching or lecturing, followed by activities. This method seemed to work very well, for the students understood that they had to pay attention in order to succeed in the activities that followed. My instructor also used a lot of "hands-on" activities, such as allowing the students to go up to the smart board and solve problems. The students found this exciting, which allowed them to have fun while learning at the same time. As a result, I also tried to use "hands-on" activities in my lessons, creating both an exciting and beneficial learning environment for the students. Clearly, by observing the class and my instructor, I have been able to grow and develop in many ways as a pre-service teacher.

I also spent a large amount of time planning lessons and developing instructional materials. After observing the class a few times, I began developing lessons that would be beneficial and appropriate for the students I was tutoring. I never realized how time-consuming lesson planning was until this experience. I spent many nights thinking of different ways that I could teach the material, and I struggled in deciding on exactly which one I wanted to use. I also had to consider many factors as I made my lesson plans, such as student diversity, time management, and the materials that were available for use. Not only was lesson planning time-consuming, but developing instructional materials also required time and effort. I wrote out many notes in order to help the students, as well as made many copies of worksheets that included practice problems. As a result of my field experience, I now understand that lessons must be planned well in advance if they are going to be beneficial. I also learned that instructional materials must be developed in advance as well, for they may take a large amount of time since classrooms usually consist of more than twenty students.

Last, but not least, I spent most of my field experience tutoring the students. In this specific area, I developed as a pre-service teacher in many ways. First, I learned that classroom management and discipline is a very important part in becoming an effective teacher. If a classroom is run by a teacher who completely understands how to appropriately manage the available space and time, the class will run smoothly and the required material will be covered. Many of the students that I tutored just wanted to talk and interrupt me during my lesson. After letting it go the first few times, I told the students that they will not improve if they do not concentrate and work hard. If they were disruptive, I also told them that they would not be able to come to the back table with me if they were going to be disrespectful to me and the other students who were trying to learn. After doing so, the students realized that I was in charge, and acted in a more respectful manner. Also, I was able to teach them the required material that I had in my lesson plans. During tutoring, I also learned that many factors must be considered when teaching in a diverse environment. Socioeconomic status, gender, race, and prior knowledge must be taken into account when planning lessons.

As a result of my field experience, I have learned many things that have helped me develop as a pre-service teacher. Through observation, lesson planning, developing instructional materials, and tutoring, I have come to understand that teaching is a career that involves a large amount of adjustment. An educator must be willing to adjust to his/her students' needs in order to become effective. I have learned to adjust in many aspects through this experience that will benefit me as a teacher in the future.