

Melissa Green

EDEF 3200 – Response to classmates critical responses to case studies

Alone in a Crowd – Philosophy

“Thanks for sharing this and your experience of Dr. Jennifer Katz’s presentation, Karla. As I read what you wrote I was struck by your second sentence, “Not only is it important to students with special needs, it is imperative for all students to have experiences in inclusive settings to facilitate an inclusive society. This means experiencing challenges and benefits.” I completely agree and find that it is easy to forget how important it is to create, support, honour and embrace diverse classrooms. Yes, the environment needs to be appropriate and the necessary supports need to be in place for everyone’s benefit. And for some students it will not be the learning environment that they need to be successful, which also needs to be honoured. But when students get to learn in a diverse classroom I believe that learning is transformed. And as our society becomes more and more diverse it becomes more and more important for students to experience and learn about diversity in the broadest sense while in school.”

Let Them Eat Cake – History

Jared, I agree with you wholeheartedly. I remember when I reached the age where I could confidently read novels by myself. I weekly would go to our small town library where the librarian, who within a few months had memorized my library card number, greeted me and I’d take out stacks of books. It was not only the books that transformed my life and allowed my imagination to venture to places otherwise not explored but also the relationship with the librarian. A relationship that was so important to me during my pre-teen and teen years. I’m taken back to this evening’s conversation about the presence of robots in society and how many people wondered out loud about what will happen to human relationships and connections if robots are doing everything in our society. I think the same thing is true of books and librarians: even in the midst of new technologies and media we need to not lose the role of libraries in our schools and in our society.

This Suit’s For Wearing – Implications

Thank you for this, Jessica.

I think we have some similar thoughts on recognizing each child in the uniqueness that makes them who they are. I agree with beginning by getting to know each student personally and learning about their background and what they might need. It is important to me that I get to know each student well enough that I know what they need for success while acknowledging that success looks different for every student. I faced this often as the manager of a Summer Youth Staff team of young people between the ages of 16 and 25. The staff were coming in with varied levels of experience and diverse backgrounds; it was important to us as an organization to do everything we could do to support each staff member in their success in the workplace. This sometimes meant that one person’s responsibilities looked quite different than the person next to them. As an organization, we were intentional about fostering an atmosphere of support over one of competition and “fairness.” It wasn’t always the easiest thing to balance, but it was so worth it.

You also mention patience; I think this should be central to the classroom and specifically while working with young people. I could go on about that, but instead, I’ll say thank you for that reminder – I needed that today.