**Minot State University**

**Student Teaching**

**Autobiography**

**SAMPLE**

Name: Mary Jane Smith

Date: January 27, 2010

Major(s): Elementary Education

Teaching Minor: Spanish

Address: 125 Main Street

 Anytown, ND 58000

Telephone: (701) 555-0000

High School Attended: Dawson County High School, Glendive, MT

**Previous Laboratory Experience in Education:**

 • Shadowing a third grade teacher for a whole day

 • Teaching a reading center activity to second graders

 • Teaching a fifteen minute science lesson to fourth graders

 • Observation of seventh and eighth grade Spanish classes

 • Shadowing a Title 1 teacher for 18 hours

**Previous Work with School Age Children:**

 • Baby-sitting

 • Cheerleading Clinic

 • Fitness Fun Day

 • Camp Fire Camp

**1. Give a brief description of the community in which you have spent most of your life. Include the type of schools you attended, etc.**

I grew up in a town in Eastern Montana where everyone knows your name. Glendive has a population of about 5,000 people. Although Glendive is a medium-sized town, it has six different schools: three public elementary schools, one private elementary school, a middle school, and a high school. I attended one of the elementary schools, middle school, and the high school. The middle school had a large number of students, but the high school had about 700 students. There were 150 students in my graduating class. Overall, Glendive is a cozy town and a very nice place to grow up.

**2. Describe any special abilities, skills, occupation training, hobbies, travel, or other interesting experiences you have had which may be useful in teaching.**

Because my husband is in the Air Force, I have had the opportunity to travel a great deal. I have visited many states, lived abroad in Okinawa, Japan and Alaska. I feel I could bring insight into the classroom for a student who has not had the opportunity to travel. I have many hobbies. I like sports and enjoy the outdoors. However, mostly I enjoy bike riding, cooking, eating, traveling, and spending time with my husband and daughter. I also enjoy reading and have read many children’s books.

**3.** **Do you anticipate any special problems in handling children or working with people in a school situation? What do you hope to learn from student teaching?**

During my student teaching, I would like to learn about and see first hand how integrated curriculum or an interdisciplinary unit works. I would also like to learn about accommodating students with special needs. I am very curious about classroom management and the various techniques used. Overall, I would like to learn how to teach effectively and conduct a classroom. I am an easygoing person and do not anticipate any problems.

**4**. **List academic college courses, which you have enjoyed and found helpful. Give some reasons for their appeal to you.**

One of the most enjoyable classes I have taken at Minot State was Children’s Literature. The class was very interesting and a lot of fun. I really enjoy children’s books. I’ve also found classes that deal with understanding and teaching reading to be quite helpful. I think children should enjoy reading and these classes were helpful in showing me how to make that possible.

**5. My thoughts about education (e.g. how children learn, what schools can do for children and for our nation, etc.) Indicate factors that influenced you to become a teacher (e.g. parental and home influence, another person, etc.).**

When I was in seventh grade, I had a teacher who was so excited about literature and teaching that she inspired me to become a teacher. It was obvious by her attitude that she cared about her students and genuinely enjoyed being with us. Her satisfaction came from helping us learn. I believe that children learn because they have a natural curiosity and desire to learn. As a future teacher, I feel it is my job to encourage this curiosity and desire to learn and to be a helping link for children to accomplish this task.