

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

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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.