Education 3504 Evaluation of Learning

Chapter 3 Beginning with the end in Mind & Chapter 4 Describing Success

The overall Concept I received from chapter 3 is the importance of planning. The question the chapter started with, really got me pondering my own future attitude towards teaching. What do I, as a future student want my future students to learn? How does the answer to this question change the way we plan lessons, make requirement list or even evaluate students? The Chapter Title is very appropriate for this topic of discussion, because if we understand the outcome or finish line we want students to reach it will become more clear the pathway necessary to reach the goal. In other words, planning starts with understanding what the outcome is allowing you to make the journey eventful and rewarding.

Just because you have the outcome in place and have a plan in mind does not necessarily mean the year will go smoothly. There are many variables we need to keep in mind for our planning and they are the diversified and uniquely different students in the class. The text talked about the Education standards being the template of how the students are judged academically. This rose some concerns in me. Primarily, does the standards allow for learning and secondly does it create a positive learning environment or a stressful atmosphere? Another question I thought of during the reading was how do you challenge them all if they are all over the board academically? Again, we are taken back to the importance of planning. I believe if we plan appropriately and include the variables of different student in the class room and different learning styles we will be able to make the atmosphere positive. By no means do I believe it will be easy but I do believe it can be done. I liked the point of equalizing the evaluation assessment and the quality assessment. I believe the use of both techniques can help to eliminate stress in students and allowing for a positive learning environment. These type of assessments can also help when we plan to challenge each student. When we see their initial work compared to the next assignments in quality assessment we will begin to see how much students need to be challenged. While one student may never reach the evaluated status of your highest student, assessment can help the student better himself with each assignment. I believe it is important to strive not to be the best but only a better you.

Chapter 4 adds to the importance of challenging your students and planning again as it emphasizes the importance of knowing what the outcome you as a teacher are looking for. Once you have that outcome in place and are planning around it, it is important to let the students know the outcome so they can strive to reach or master it. I liked the way they mentioned the importance of the sample and exemplar collection. It sounds like a great way to provide students with the answer of what are you looking for. However, how does a new teacher get a collection for their first year of teaching? This question is a great way to utilize T.A.s or fellow colleagues. It creates an atmosphere of teamwork for a new teacher as they begin to build those relationships with mentor teachers.