



Planning Ahead

Pam Stephens

In Ernest Boyer's human commonalities we are reminded that as human beings we have the capacity to anticipate the future. The term "anticipate" has a variety of definitions, each with subtle differences. "To anticipate" can mean to look forward to a future event, to expect that certain events will occur, or to deal with an event beforehand.

As young children, we look forward to going to school or growing up. As adolescents, we envision the adult world and the profession of our dreams. As young adults who enter the university system, we look forward to fulfilling our career dreams. When each semester is completed, we begin to foresee what our future holds as art teachers. It is at this point that anticipating the future should include

"dealing with an event beforehand." In other words, preparing to teach.

Anticipating Student Teaching

1. Meet with your faculty advisor to review your transcript and determine that all course requirements and exit test requirements have been satisfactorily completed, or that you are on track to complete the requirements in a timely manner.
2. If it is your option to request where you will student-teach, visit several campuses before choosing. Being placed on a campus with a cooperating teacher who shares your art teaching philosophy can make a big difference in the student-teaching experience.
3. Visit with the university supervisor to determine the objectives of student-teaching, how your performance will be evaluated, and what the supervisor expects to observe.
4. Visit with the cooperating teacher before you begin student-teaching. Make notes about the daily schedule, code of conduct for students and faculty, classroom management, and available resources. Ask if you will be responsible for developing your own lessons.
5. If you are responsible for developing your own lessons, plan as much as possible in advance. Find out from the cooperating teacher what topics should be covered. Collect available resources such as websites, books, and posters. Remember that once you start student-teaching, there is a limited amount of time to plan. The more you plan in advance, the

less stressful your student-teaching experience will be.

6. Prepare a simple icebreaker that will introduce you to your students. An effective method is an digital slide show. The slide show can include a photo of your university campus, a photo of your pet, a photo of you participating in a favorite activity, and several slides of your own artwork. This slide show lets students know that you are a professional educator, that you have something in common with them, and that you are a producing artist.
7. Find out what is appropriate attire for your assigned campus and stick to the rules.
8. Review your appearance and grooming. Make sure that your appearance meshes with the school's code of conduct. Remember that schools are often highly conservative in nature. In certain schools piercings other than one in each ear are not allowed. Visible tattoos are usually frowned upon. Unnatural shades of hair color, wild hair styles, and excessive makeup are discouraged. Set a good example for your students through your appearance. You'll be surprised how a professional appearance can positively impact classroom discipline.
9. The night before your first day on campus get plenty of rest. Try to stay rested during your entire student-teaching experience. (This is easier said than done!)

Remarks? Questions?

If you recently completed student-teaching please consider sharing your remarks or hints for possible inclusion in an upcoming "Student Teacher Survival Guide." If you are on the threshold of student-teaching and have additional questions, your inquiries are welcome. ☺

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