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EDUC450
Mid Semester Reflection
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Standard 1: While I am still growing and learning as an art educator, I do feel like this is one of my strongest standards, and I have improved further as the semester has been progressing. I have a wide variety of knowledge on many different aspects of art techniques, history, and actively find new things to teach my future students. I have a good combination of broad general knowledge, and specific technical skills in drawing, ceramics and painting. I also have a pretty good grasp on finding the Colorado State standard for Visual Arts and keeping those in mind with lesson planning. I still have room to grow, since having skills and knowledge doesn't directly translate to good teaching or interesting lessons, so my room for improvement comes in making the connection to teachable content.

High Proficient/Low Accomplished

Standard 2: This standard focuses on creating an inclusive and safe environment for students, which I think I have a good grasp of. I don't have a classroom of my own yet, but I try to be conscious of all of my interactions with students in practicum and aim to uphold these standards to the best of my knowledge and abilities. I think my interactions and lessons with students have been fairly predictable in the same way I've interacted with them in class observations. I try to think of lessons that address more diverse populations of students, and not get too focused on old art teaching methods, and instead focus on more contemporary and relevant content for students.

Proficient

Standard 3: This one is more of a work-in-progress, since my experience leading a lesson or classroom is pretty limited. I feel like I have a good grasp on many different teaching methods and strategies I've added to my teacher toolkit. I think I model and promote effective communication, but I need to figure out how to work on "communicating high expectations to support the development of critical-thinking and problem-solving skills." Maybe I can ask the mentor teachers how they approach this standard.

Developing

Standard 4: Professionalism is something I'm still working on. While I want to be a more casual and easy-going teacher, I also know the importance of professionalism in creating an environment that students take me seriously and trust that I am a teacher that knows her stuff. I'm not sure what actionable things will help me become a better leader, but I will try and put myself out there and try to hang back less in practicum, trying to practice my "teacher voice" and teacher actions.

Developing

2 Goals for the rest of the semester:

- Work with both art mentor teachers to get some more insight into what they would recommend for a pre-service teacher. I have more than enough resources and great recommendations from them, but I think I need to craft some good questions to get the most out of the rest of the semester, before I'm student teaching, since I know the whole process will really just fly by. This aligns mostly with Standards 3 and 4 that have more to do with classroom environment and effective instruction skills.
- I really want to try and extend myself to figure out how to approach teaching students that might not be in an elective or advanced art class. More differentiation ideas and consideration is something I strive for, and maybe I can try and work with some of the students in both art classes that aren't as engaged, but still participate. I want to ask both mentor teachers about techniques they use for connecting with students that don't really come into the art class wanting to participate. This aligns more with Standard 2 and making teaching more inclusive and diverse.