*Old Dominion University Darden College of Education*

**WEEKLY JOURNAL**

*(To be submitted each week to the Old Dominion University Supervisor)*

Use this journal to describe your progress in becoming a Professional Educator in relation to the goals of The Unit’s Model in the Handbook.

Name \_\_Erica Guardino\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_2/28/2016\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. What was the purpose of your lesson this week?

This week I taught a psychology lesson on the hunger drive with a focus on food deserts. The purpose of the lesson was to help students understand the difference between having access to food versus access to healthy, affordable food that can sustain health; consuming calories is not enough. I hoped this lesson would help them sympathize with people who are living in areas where it is difficult to get life-sustaining food.

2. How did you engage your learners with your materials?

I engaged the students and got an idea of their current knowledge on the issues by having them play a couple rounds of “take a stand”, a game in which they migrate to different parts of the room based on how they choose to respond to selected questions (agree, disagree, neutral). Once they made their choice, I asked them questions and allow them to debate each other’s perspectives.

3. Were you effective in meeting the purpose of the lessons – how are you measuring this?

Yes, I was able to get everyone up and out of their seats in a way that compelled them to think and draw conclusions of their own. Everyone was willing to move around the room and many of them gave evidence to support their claims, while others chose to switch sides based on the arguments of their classmates.

4. What are the strength of this lesson? (Identify at least two areas)

This lesson was effective because it provided me with an easy way to measure and draw out prior knowledge and get the students fired up about the issues. It made them consider their own understanding of the relationship between quality of available food and quality of overall health, while allowing them to see where their classmates stood, too.

5. What areas will you seek to improve in future lessons?

In the future I will make time to incorporate additional questions. I had three prepared and students told me after that they would have enjoyed going around a few more times.

6. Did you make any changes in your plans after teaching the lesson? Why or why not?

I did not have a chance to execute any changes to my lesson in real-time; due to a delay created by a school assembly, I was only able to execute the activity once. The rest of the lesson stands well enough alone.

7. What do you regard as your most important personal learning experience during this week?

This week I was faced with a variety of challenges all coming to a head at once. I had an activity to administer (my food desert “take a stand” activity) during a typically excitable fourth block class (fourth block both days are pretty hyper) during an external lockdown (not a drill) while being observed by the department chair (the only time so far he has seen me teach). All of these factors came together and I was forced to act decisively to keep control of the situation. I am happy to say that I was able to corral the kids and keep them in the room, follow the proscribed external lockdown procedure, and keep the lesson going despite the student’s compulsion to be distracted by all these factors themselves.

8. Did you have a conference this week with your clinical faculty? How many times? If not, why?

Yes, we met as usual on Friday and throughout the week.

9. Tell me about something that happened this week that you are proud of.

This week I administered the pre-test for my student teaching project. I was proud to have worked together with my clinical faculty to compile the test, prepare the presentation and explanation to the students, and have everyone take the test on the same day without excessive fretting on anyone’s part. I was concerned this might be more stressful, but fortunately, everything went smoothly.

10. Are you having problems that you feel require attention and assistance from me?

No, not at this time.

11. When would be a good time for me to stop by your school next week?

n/a (report submitted belatedly)

COMMENTS: