

Reflective Essay Assignments

MUSIC 145—Dr. Liske

Reflective Essay Assignment #1

Whom do you think should be the music teachers? Discuss the issues of what makes a good music teacher and what it takes for one to become good at it. Who were the teachers that inspired you and what special qualities did they have? Did you recognize them at the time? Be prepared to describe one of your most influential teachers in class.

Reflective Essay Assignment #2

Discuss two or three large goals that you expect to accomplish as a music educator. Do these goals fit in with a philosophy of "music for every child?" How will you accomplish your goals in each of the instructional settings where you might actually teach (choral, instrumental, general)? Which students do you think will benefit most from having you as a teacher? How will you impact the rest of your students? Discuss your ideas in class.

Reflective Essay Assignment #3

State and discuss your best reasons for teaching music in the public schools for all children at all levels. Can music have extra-musical benefits? What might they be? Are the non-musical benefits of music instruction as important as the musical benefits?

Reflective Essay Assignment #4

By title and composer, discuss three pieces of music that you would like to someday teach to a school band, chorus, orchestra, or music class. How do you think learning these pieces will improve the quality of your students' lives. On what levels do your selections represent a value choice you have made.

Reflective Essay Assignment #5

What do you value most about music? What do you value most about music education? If you were a school board member, forced to explain to parents and voters why you supported maintaining music instruction while other school programs were reduced, what points would you make. As a teacher, how would these values influence your teaching?

Reflective Essay Assignment #6

Should all secondary students take general, classroom, or exploratory music? In which grades? Even those who participate in performance based music classes? Why or why not? Should Wisconsin institute an arts requirement for high school graduation? A music requirement?

Reflective Essay Assignment #7

Why do you think it is important for teachers to continue to grow professionally throughout their careers? What are some specific ways music teachers can continue to grow professionally after college graduation?

Reflective Essay Assignment #8

Think of one thing you wish we had studied or discussed in Intro to Music Education (but we didn't), AND one thing you are glad we did, and tell why you think they are important.