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It is my belief that music should be taught to everyone, young and old. It is obvious to me that music has the power to shape the world around us, and I want to share that with my students. Music is what brings us all together no matter where we come from, who we are, or how old we are. As a caring intellectual it will be my job to step into the world of teaching knowing that every day is a new day, a new challenge, an opportunity. It will be my job as a caring intellectual to reach my students needs and to ensure their success.

Music should be taught to every child, which brings me to the topic of the inclusive classroom. Children with disabilities are an amazing example of the power of music and the benefits it can have on us. I don't presume to know everything there is to know about special education, but I know there are steps I can take to becoming more educated on these issues. Attending IEP meetings is probably the first and foremost important step. Sitting down with the parents of the child and the special education teacher to come up with a strategy will be most effective for the child. I think that communication is essential. Speaking with the special education teacher or aide, and the parents will help me to better accommodate the child's learning.

Music is something that people all around the world are experiencing every day, it is something we can all relate to no matter where we live. This is why exposing music from many cultures is vital in order for the child to have a well balanced diet. Teaching about different cultures is easy because there are so many, but where do I start? I think the answer is to take a look around your classroom. Start in your own backyard so to

speak. If there are students in your room who come from a certain cultural background, then by all means make them feel proud of their heritage and culture by introducing music that comes from their culture. When introducing a piece you must give background information about the particular country and culture it originated from. You can do this by showing maps, pictures, or listening to recordings. This would be a great opportunity for those students to share their cultural background with the class. It is our job as an educator to teach multiculturalism, and make our students aware of the world around them.

As a teacher I want to make sure that I am reaching each child, and being effective. In order to do so I must have ways of assessing their learning. This is why setting goals and objectives before each lesson plan will help to judge the students success at the end of the day. I could walk into a rehearsal and just go through the music, but then I wouldn't have much of an idea as to whether they were succeeding. Recording assessments will also protect me as a teacher when issues arise. You can be sure that there will come a time when a student or the student's parents will question your grading policies, but if you have documented the goals and objectives of the lesson and the student's success with those, then you will be protected. This is why having a lesson plan that is well organized and meets the National and State standards will make sure that I am giving my students a rich musical experience. Focusing too much one on aspect will mean they will lack in other areas and will not make for a well rounded musician.

Music has always been important in my life, which is why I have chosen to become a music educator. Since I was a child I have loved to sing and share music with others. So deciding to become a music educator was the only logical step. Throughout my

life I have been in choirs, musicals, and extra curricular musical activities. It is all these experience and many more that have shaped who I am. I know first hand the benefits of music in my life, and that is why I know it is important to share that with others. It sounds so simple, but music makes me happy. Music ties us all together and has the power to change the world. No matter if we listen, dance, sing, play, conduct, record, or compose music; it is the soundtrack of our lives.