

Montserrat Granados
Journal Entry #5
March 14th, 2016

Experience Narrative:

For our last class we decided to begin the class by reflecting on what we have accomplished. Using the classroom computer and projector we went on our blog page and looked through the gallery. All of the students sat down and watched the pictures. Some students would say, "Hey that's me!". We asked them if they could remember all of the projects we went through. Between all of them we were able to cover them all. This served as a way to look back at all that they have accomplished but also as a way to motivate them to finish their books.

Prior to class Willow worked out a printing schedule on the board. Not every student made a collograph, but the ones that did were able to use the press to print their plate. While students waited to print their collographs they began to punch holes and choose how to organize their books. Heidi really wanted to plan out the details of her book. She had used dried flowers on the cover of her book, so she used paper to make a green stem for her flower. Other students like Kim and Nick made more pages for their books, or pieces they might be able to sell through Allison. Nick really got into making circles with two colors. I asked him what some of his circles meant. The orange and blue was for the Broncos, green and red for Christmas, and purple and yellow for the Vikings. Later he began to make more circles but instead of colors he made compasses. Some had all the directions but some had all the directions as North. Nick works wonderfully with repetition and color, which was clearly visible throughout the classes.

About half way through most people were done printing and were now solely working on putting together their books with yarn. Since we had printed out a portrait of each student, and a class photo for everyone they became more like yearbooks. Students began asking other classmates if they could sign their books. Heidi pointed out that she didn't really like having people sign her yearbook in college but that she wanted people in class to sign her book. It was interesting to see students that never really interacted with each other to be signing each other's books. This class went by really fast; before we knew it, it was almost time to go. People rushed to get their books signed. It seemed like the class was really happy with their books. They seemed proud of their work. We were all nervous at the beginning of our service learning, but I am proud of what we accomplished. Our culmination of projects was beautifully bound in diverse portfolios, which also serve as a memory of this class.

Interpretation:

This final class solidified the importance of schedules, organization, and flexibility. Having a final product in mind gave the students a goal. During this last class students were involved in their art. A signifier of their pride was their willingness to share their work. They wanted us to take pictures of their work. They wanted to explain their pages to their classmates and us and above all they wanted to have a memory of their classmates which came in the form of having them sign each other's book. This showed me how a project can be made to connect with a student on a personal level, and how the connection can be a motivational tool.

Personal Significance: This class taught me how to collaborate better. Once we all have our own classrooms we won't have more than one teacher in a room but we will constantly be collaborating with administrators, parents, and students. It was interesting to see how our teaching styles changed throughout the semester. This class also showed me that when students are truly invested in their work they would produce a great product. I cannot think of one student that did not participate fully during class.

Even when students were not 100% invested they would try out the project and eventually find ways to connect with it. This showed me flexibility. We came into class with a plan but it worked better when we would give the students options. These options made some students more comfortable and made them participate more.

Future Actions:

For my future classes I will remember the importance of connections.; connections made from one project to the next. Personal connection between teacher and students, as well as personal connections between projects and students. Like I stated before when students are truly involved in their work they will produce good work. I also plan on emphasizing the importance of collaboration and sharing through art. This was something that worked out well in our class. After every lesson we made time to share with each other, which allowed students to share their discoveries with others and learn from their peers.