

Part VI: Post-Teaching Reflection (15 points)

a) Reflection: *A response to the following questions.*

What were the strengths and weakness of this unit and your teaching?

After teaching this unit I realized that although it is was successful there were some parts that I would like to improve on the next time I teach it. As for the strengths, my students really enjoyed learning about their community. It gave them a chance to personalize their learning and make real world connections on a daily basis. Students loved Google Earth and the opportunity to use technology within the classroom. The lesson with the use of Google Earth was one of the best lessons within this unit.

I felt this unit took longer then I expected and I may have set my standards for the unit too high, I had mastery level expectations for this particular unit and for many students that was difficult. I think it was so difficult because this unit was broken up by a school break, next time I would plan this unit when there was not a break coming up. Another weakness of this unit was the development of the Hazel Park book. I felt that I may not have given enough factual information about each area students were to develop their sentences about. I think that the students may have been able to develop more meaningful sentences if they had been given more concrete ideas and visuals of what they were to develop their ideas about.

What were highs and lows?

As I mentioned, the high was incorporating technology into the unit. Students enjoyed working with Google Earth and being able to bring two classes together for the activity. Students were the most engaged and well behaved during this lesson. I also

think students enjoyed when I incorporated literature into the unit. My students love books and within this unit I provided some great read aloud. As for lows, I thought the lessons where I taught too much might have needed to be broken up. I needed to teach a little one day and have students work a little on that day as well.

What comments did your cooperating teacher offer?

My CT was wonderful during this unit. She enjoyed it very much and was very supportive. She expressed that she really liked how engaged the students were and how personal the unit was to the students.

What might you do differently?

Next time I teach this unit I will be more familiar with the area I am teaching about. I did gather a great deal of information from many different resources but information that I thought would be easy to find was more difficult than anticipated. I feel if I prepare ahead of time I will be able to gather more information.

What did you learn about the topic and about students, curriculum, and teaching?

I learned a lot about Hazel Park, such as how it was named after the Hazel nut bushes that once occupied the land. I also learned about the size of the city and the important streets that divided it into four square mile quadrants.

I learned about places that my students value as important to them in their city. I also, learned that students travel outside of their city to get things, and because they are so young they do not realize that everything is not in Hazel Park. For example, Target is

a store that many students mentioned and said they go to often for clothes, or food but Target is not even in Hazel Park.

I learned that the curriculum for this unit explored and explained the importance of becoming a knowledgeable citizen in ones own community. I hope that my teaching lead students to this understanding and will provided them with the means to continue to become a good citizen.