

Music Education Guest Reflection

Dr. Elizabeth Gould

I thoroughly enjoyed listening to Dr. Elizabeth Gould's presentation. The presentation was centered around the article "Teacher's Pet" which we had to read and reflect on prior to the lecture.

Throughout Dr. Gould's presentation she had us think deeply about various terms related to education and what it means to be a teacher. The most interesting point she raised was the idea of teaching being an interaction between the teacher and student. I feel that we often forget the importance of equal participation in a teacher-student relationship. During my experience, I felt that in high school some classes were teacher-driven. The teachers did not take the time to see if we were absorbing the information they were explaining to us. They did not want to adapt their teaching methods based on the needs of their students. However in progressive education, A.W. Strousse stresses the importance of the student. In progressive education, the relationship between the teacher and student is fluid in that, the teacher caters to all of the learning styles in a classroom. They foster the student's natural curiosity and encourage student development. In my opinion, progressive education breaks all the barriers of the stereotypical classroom environment. Gould stated we often think that if a classroom is silent, all of the students are working hard. However, I do not think that this is the case. A classroom that is full of rich conversation and debate is just as or even more beneficial to a student's learning than reading a textbook is.

One thing I did not like about the presentation was I found that Dr. Gould was a bit disorganized. It did not feel like each of her thoughts were flowing into each other, rather they were all scattered. Sometimes this left me confused and uneasy. It felt that we hadn't finished talking about a concept and would then move to a completely unrelated topic.

Overall, I loved that Dr. Gould encouraged audience participation because I felt that by hearing my fellow peers' thoughts I began to contemplate new perspectives I would not have previously thought of. This presentation got me to think further about the teacher-student relationship and I will continue to reflect on this concept.