Tracy Richter

Reflection 2.3

**2.3 Respect for diversity**

Candidates demonstrate the ability to develop a collection of reading and information materials in print and digital formats that support the diverse developmental, cultural, social, and linguistic needs of P-12 students and their communities.

**Artifacts**

1. [EDUC 417 Reading Logs/ Text Sets](../../EDUC%20417%20Reading%20Logs.docx)

2. [ISTC 789 Science Fair Portal Page](https://gmsmedia.wikispaces.hcpss.org/Science+Fair+Resources)

3. [SCED 518 Pride & Prejudice Google Site](https://sites.google.com/site/prideandprejudiceandyal/)

**Relevance**

The school community is incredibly diverse, and since I believe the school library is at the center of the school community, the media specialist has to have a vast knowledge of resources, in a variety of formats, in order to support the diverse needs of its students. Whether their needs are social, developmental, cultural, etc. the media specialist should be aware of the students’ diversities and provide them with information and resources that they can access and use effectively.

My reading logs are a great example of how I was able to form a collection of diverse literature that any child could identify with. I made sure to expand my knowledge of literature by reading books from different genres, like contemporary realistic fiction, informational, poetry, and more. Within each genre, the themes of the books that I included were varied as well. For example I have books about divorce, same-gender relationships, friendships, multicultural families, and more that would allow students to not only see themselves in these books, but to enhance their knowledge of diversity too. I also identified appropriate age-levels for each book, so that I could use these books to accommodate all learners and their reading levels. In the future I will use this list as a resource to meets the needs of all my students. I will also continue to add to this list, and include more digital formats so that students can access books from a mobile device or computer too.

While I created the science fair portal page for my GT middle school students in my internship, I made sure to sort through the resources I had access to, in order to meet the needs of the students. For example, Howard County has subscriptions to many databases, but I wanted to make sure that the students used resources that were appropriate for their science fair research and offered appropriate accommodations for their individual learning styles. Therefore, I provided print resources that were available from the school library, online databases, and scholarly search engines that they could use, to help them with their assignment. The digital formats provided students with tools that could help a variety of different learners, for example enlarging the text, having the text read to them, accessing a dictionary to define words, and providing the text in different languages. If students did not have computer access, I made sure to provide them with print resources. In addition links to the databases, and in-class instruction highlighting the features of each resource, I also created screencasts, so that students could reference how to use each database effectively if they needed further reinforcement in the future. The students loved having their resources in one place, and appreciated having the extra screencasts to reference later on if needed. They accessed these databases in-class, and I noticed that they utilized the features that they provided, for example a few students chose to listen to the text, which aided in them in their auditory learning style. I will set-up portal pages like this in the future, in order to provide students with a multitude of resources, both print and digital, to help chose the best ones for their needs, and so they can be independently successful.

In order to support the classic novel *Pride & Prejudice* by Jane Austen, I created a Google site in my coursework that provides teachers and students with ideas of how to supplement this piece of literature, with a variety of resources, in order to foster students’ learning styles. Sometimes teaching classic literature can become stagnant, so I wanted a way to provide teachers with revamped resources to help their students be more successful in comprehending *Pride & Prejudice*. My site includes modern books, websites, movies, songs, and articles that will help teachers with instructing this text. For example, *Pride & Prejudice* can often be construed as a “girls” novel, so I provided some resources that might help teachers engage boys more, including a graphic novel version of the story. I also included lesson ideas that would help a variety of different learners with this novel. All of these suggestions will help teachers and me, with teaching this classic text, while fostering a variety learning styles and diversities. In the future, I would create more resources like this Google site, to provide supplemental resources to texts, in order to tailor instruction to *all* students’ needs.