

Breaking the Stigma: Owning Individuality & Promoting Community in the Classroom

Clinical Experience

For my Special Education Clinical Experience, I am placed in a classroom at the Amerigo A. Anastasia Elementary School, Long Branch, NJ. I get to work one-on-one with students in breakout rooms and not only assist them in any classwork they may need help with, but also get to learn from them. It is a wonderful opportunity to make personal connections and have a better understanding of each other as a student and educator.

My Proposal

Students make presentations about themselves (whichever format they choose) that will be guided by the following questions:

Why do you like to learn? What do you want to learn? What classroom activities do you like that help you learn? How do you see yourself in the classroom / what do you want to contribute?

These questions can be simplified or expanded upon based on grade level.

What Type of Student Are You?

So often when we hear about students with learning / cognitive or emotional disabilities, we are learning what is “wrong”. However, there is no issue. Rather than categorizing students based on their learning / emotional capabilities, let’s allow the students to define themselves and let us know who they are in the classroom and how they want to contribute and learn.



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