

## Closing Framing Statement

Now that I have come to this closing assignment for my portfolio, I want to say I agree with Ladson-Billings theory "that empathy means the ability to 'feel with', not 'feel for' the students."(Ladson-Billings, 1998, p.240). It is my desire to do whatever it takes to teach, share and encourage my students to believe in themselves and work hard to achieve their dreams/goals in life. This endorsement process has opened my eyes to the fact that some of the perceptions and beliefs that I learned growing up are myths instead of reality. It has also reinforced my beliefs that becoming a life-long learner is a worthwhile endeavor. However, I now understand that it is also an on-going process of adaptation and refinement.

My theme to be a "bridge" for my students and others in my life has made me realize how important it is to balance between my strengths and my weaknesses. Coming to understand that sharing and modeling knowledge is the best way to teach others to believe in their strengths and, the need to work at overcoming their struggles in life. I have discovered that I had a very narrow view of how much time is needed to become fluent enough to communicate adequately and learn to read and write in a new language. This realization has given me a new sense of compassion and patience for my students.

One of the most important things an educator can do to show respect for their students is to regard them as someone who can be a producer of knowledge rather than a receptacle into which a teacher deposits knowledge. This shows the difference between sharing knowledge by using cooperative learning groups and curriculum that is mainly presented in the lecture instruction model. I am an advocate of sharing knowledge and believe that student participation in the learning process can be more effective for many students. I think that we all can learn from each other.

The biggest dilemma for me is to be able to discern the difference between lack of effort or desire and a lack of language skills that often causes fear of failure or success in my students. I pray that I will be able to model skills that build self-esteem and confidence in my students on a daily basis. Developing the skill of listening to my students will help me know when and how to praise or correct their behavior. I want them to know that I am in their corner, regardless, and will be an advocate of their educational needs. I see the future as challenging, and as a learning experience to be faced daily. Because we are moving into a more global society in the American school system, I feel that my ESL classes have made me more prepared to handle whatever comes my way.