

Standard 7: Engages in professional growth.

Criterion c: Applies research, knowledge, and skills from professional development opportunities to improve practice.

Artifact: Throughout my student teaching experience I have been involved in numerous teacher in-services. At one particular district wide in-service the topic of discussion was improving teaching methods. Teachers were put into four groups and rotated around to different classrooms to participate in activities that were designed to get teachers brainstorming about their own teaching methods. Some of the different topics were formative assessment, student-centered learning, and rigor and relevance. After teachers were done rotating through the groups it was time to meet with the principal of your building. In this meeting teachers were instructed to pick one area of teaching that was talked about that they wanted to improve on. Teachers had to develop a plan on how they were going to implement this new strategy into the classroom. After the plan had been implemented teachers were instructed to reflect on how teaching and learning had changed within their classroom.

I chose to focus on rigor and relevance. My plan was to start a project with my advanced government students. Students were instructed to pick a potential Republican presidential candidate for the 2012 election. Students had to go in depth and research the person and not just where they stood on the issues. Students researched family life and personal qualities as well. In the end, they had to create a power-point presentation highlighting their research. Overall, the project went very well. Students were very creative in their research finding facts and figures that surprised everyone. Overall, the student had fun with the project and they took great pride in the product that they produced.

Explanation: This artifact shows my ability to engage in professional growth. The strategy that I chose to implement within my classroom went extremely well and the students responded with outstanding results. Their projects were detailed, relevant, and creative.