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Field Lesson Reflection

I taught my lesson on Thursday, February 23 at Delta High School. For this lesson, Mrs. Weaver asked me to focus on phrasing in a particular passage of a piece they were working on. I thought that it would be a good idea to incorporate dynamic shaping into the warmup and do it well on a much simpler exercise so that students can better understand what it should physically feel like to play with the shaping that I wanted them play. Then they can transfer that same feeling into when they are playing the music. I thought that this went better than I was expecting. They were able to grow and diminuendo together fairly well with little effort on my part. And I think that the students were able to transfer that very well.

In my discussion with Mrs. Weaver after the lesson, she pointed out several things that were very helpful for my considerations in future lessons. She told me that I came across as a little nervous. I was very nervous at the time, but after watching my video, I don’t think I came across as anxious as I was actually feeling. However, I still want to work on staying calm as I continue gaining experience. She also pointed out that I did not talk to the percussion once, even though I had it written in my plan. I think that because the percussion parts were relatively sparse in the section we were rehearsing and the focus of the lesson was phrasing, I just focused on the winds too much. I feel especially bad about this because I am a percussionist and should have always had an ear on what they were playing.

In my lesson, I tried to incorporate an opportunity for the students to get involved with the creativity of the music by asking for their ideas on how to phrase a particular section. They seemed somewhat reluctant about it. I don’t know if it was just something they weren’t used to, or if they were just being high school students who don’t want to be judged by their peers. But the ones who did raise their hands, had very good ideas. If I had more time, I would have encouraged this a little bit more. But I remember Mrs. Weaver getting a little bit antsy, so I decided to move on relatively quickly instead.

However, overall I feel that the students were generally very receptive to the lesson, and that it was a successful teaching episode.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x3cYlN7dB0s