Student Learning Objective #4: Educational Awareness

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Student Learning Objective (SLO): Educational Awareness by knowing current discipline based and general issues and how those impact schools.

Description of assignment: The assignment was a position paper that I wrote on my opinions of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB).

Connection to SLO: This assignment allowed me to further research the reasons behind the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 and to read articles both supporting and opposing the law. I became more informed of the greater impact NCLB has on the educational community. Though I knew from past experience that the law was extremely important in education, I think that by completing this assignment I had a more complete understanding of the effect that it has on schools.

Reflection on learning and teaching: As someone who has only been in the field of education for the last four years, the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) has been a primary focus in my career. From my first credential classes, I have heard about the goals of NCLB and the ramifications for not meeting those goals. Most of the information was anecdotal though. In the process of doing the research for the position paper I became more informed about the true nature of the law and its requirements. This information was useful preparing the introduction to my action research project. Meeting the requirements for the No Child Left Behind Act was the basis for my study and the background research for this position paper became useful information.

The impact this assignment had on my teaching was smaller than other assignments, but it was still important. Part of the basis for my viewpoint was an article on the effects that NCLB has had on special education populations. Though I do not have many special education students in my classes I do have approximately five to ten
such students per semester who qualify for special education services. I now have a
better understanding of the kind of struggles faced by these students in regards to NCLB.
There is a large amount of pressure put on these students and their core resource teachers
and I need to do my part to help them accomplish their required goals.

My teaching was affected by this assignment in that I focus more time trying to
make sure that my special education students are meeting the goals set forth in the
California State Content Standards. I spent more time looking at the standards after
completing this assignment trying to decide how reasonable I felt that they are. In doing
so, I can help my school reach towards the goal of 100% proficiency by 2014.