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English Honors Period 2

20 April 2012

Duets to Drama to Directing: A Career as a Fine Arts Teacher

The quiet lingers all through the auditorium after the audience becomes mute. The curtains go up, and the sound of a melodious voice fills the air. Students are in pristine costumes playing characters with all sorts of different personalities being acted out while following the script you wrote. Wouldn't you love to be in control of this masterpiece? You would be running the show and directing to entertain people. Imagine making a crowd feel something! The vocation that I am interested in pursuing is a career in education, as I have researched the education needed, the duties and responsibilities required, and the job outlook available. A fine arts teacher has the ability to specialize in many different fields such as stagecraft, choreography, drama, singing, etc. Fine arts teachers usually specialize in just one field which is what many do these days. Fine arts teachers are able to direct and host plays they wrote themselves. Fine arts teachers teach students how to act out different personalities, do the tango, write their own music, or sing like a professional. They raise the next generation of future talented artists. What could be a better job?

To become a fine arts teacher, one must successfully complete specific educational training. There are many specific classes that should be taken to make one eligible to teach in

the fine arts department. In college, classes are more departmentalized into specific courses: “College undergraduates in music school will generally take courses in music theory, harmony, counterpoint, rhythm, melody, ear training, applied music, and music history. Courses in composing, arranging, and conducting are available in most comprehensive music schools” (“Musicians” 392). This is why a college student going into the fine arts department needs to be very particular about what he or she wants to do. Depending on the state one is obtaining his or her education from, it is required to fulfill technology training during an estimated four years of college. Especially now, almost every school has applied some sort of technology in its system. It is essential for teachers nowadays to know how to apply technology into their techniques for teaching. If one is not knowledgeable enough about computers and other modern technology, being hired as a fine arts teacher will make it more difficult than ever. The reason for the importance of learning about technology is not only to do the basics like every other teacher. As a fine arts teacher, he or she needs to know how to use sound boards, handle microphones, check lighting, produce sound effects, etc. Without knowing how to use these learning tools, students will not understand the difficulty of making a play or even a movie come to life. They will not understand the essential ingredients needed to make a song with all the spicy melodies and the sweet bass line. That is why, in order to be a successful fine arts teacher, one must be experienced and well-educated with modern technology.

In order to graduate from a teaching school, one needs to go to a professional development school where the state allows to practice a year of teaching. The majority of the states in America offer these professional development schools in order to help students

get a feel for their future occupation. The student is put in a comfortable and familiar environment for his or her chosen profession. Although they are not required by any state, professional development schools are an excellent suggestion to teachers-in-training. Any undergraduate who has been a part of a professional development school at one time or another can agree it is worth one's time and dedication. The results of this experience are that it provides more confidence in the student's decision for his or her future. Studies have shown that further confidence in the student helps his or her grade point average rise and more effort put into school assignments and projects. It also helps the student decide if he or she has chosen the right profession for him or her. This is a key factor for undergraduates in college. If the student is not happy with his or her chosen profession, it can reflect on the student's attitude towards succeeding in that particular field. This is why professional development schools are handy and a great resource to take advantage of.

It is also important to obtain a bachelor's degree and pass all the required tests to apply for a teaching certificate. After completing four years of college, the student earns a bachelor's degree. To prove a great amount of understanding for certain subjects, there are a huge quantity of required tests taken to measure the student's intelligence. The tests analyze the student's teaching skill, basic academic skills, and knowledge of the student's content. After the completion of the student's bachelor degree and the state required tests, he or she has the authorization to apply for a teaching certificate. After acquiring a teaching certificate, the student has the ability to apply for any fine arts teaching jobs available wherever the teaching certificate is valid. Therefore, a career as a fine arts teacher requires a certain amount of

education.

Also, there are definitive duties and responsibilities that a fine arts teacher is required to perform. As a fine arts teacher, there are many duties and roles. Fine arts teachers have to be good role models for their students, show respect towards all races of students, and give exceptional examples of maturity: According to *Teachers---Preschool, Kindergarten, Elementary, Middle, Secondary*, these acts are essential to the people around the fine arts teacher and may impact the students in different ways:

In addition to being knowledgeable about the subjects they teach, teachers must have the ability to communicate, inspire trust and confidence, and motivate students, as well as understand the students' educational and emotional needs. Teachers must be able to recognize and respond to individual and cultural differences in students and employ different teaching methods that will result in higher student achievement. They should be organized, dependable, patient, and creative. Teachers also must be able to work cooperatively and communicate effectively with other teachers, support staff, parents, and members of the community. (284)

As a fine arts teacher, every action and word demonstrated to the students affects their behavior towards their parents and others. All fine arts teachers know they are dealing with the fact that they are held responsible for the next generation. They are teaching and readying the next age. Part of being a fine arts teacher is handling the role of influencing so many lives at one time.

There are many tasks fine arts teachers need to teach to their students to meet the state

requirements. Fine arts teachers teach students about the art of music and the music within the arts. If a student is interested in stagecraft, he or she is taught how to brainstorm original ideas for plays, movies, etc. The fine arts teacher tries to set the student's mind into thinking of interesting concepts instead of boring cliches. The fine arts teacher explains how cliches are so overrated and unattractive to people in the music business.

If a student fancies choreography, he or she learns how to stretch properly and do exercises. Some students are not as flexible as other students, so exercises are needed to assure safety for the student. First, he or she masters easy-to-remember steps. After a few weeks or a few months depending on how fast the student comprehends and catches on, the student is ready to learn famous dance moves like the moonwalk and famous dances such as the salsa dance.

If a student enjoys drama, the fine arts teacher can help him or her play an evil witch, a stuck-up thirteen-year-old New Yorker, or a young hillbilly from Tennessee. The fine arts teacher can teach him or her all the voices that can bring any role to life.

Also, if a student has a passion for singing, the fine arts teacher can show the student how to make his or her range of pitch wider. This allows the student to have more of a variety of possible singing roles. If a student wants a voice meant to sing, a fine arts teacher can help him or her develop one. First, the fine arts teacher teaches the student simple singing exercises to warm the voice up. The fine arts teacher shows him or her how to get the voice in tune with any key. After months and months of practice, the student will be able to sing just as well as Katy Perry. There is also a necessity of fine arts teachers helping students with physical or mental problems and getting them to the proper authorities. Fine arts teachers are on a tight

schedule and need the time to teach everything based on the state requirements, so only the students who can quickly learn can keep up. Although, some students are unable to comprehend lessons as fast as the other students or do the same activities as the other classmates. It is the fine arts teacher's responsibility to notice this immediately and get the students to the right place. These children are put into special classes where there are special education teachers to assist them. The special education teachers will be able to teach the students slower and better for the students themselves. This way, they will be able to keep up with the rest of their classmates and still learn as much as needed. Thus, particular duties and responsibilities are required for fine arts teachers.

Furthermore, a career in teaching has an undetermined job outlook for the future making teaching a risky profession. There are odd times when there is a high demand for fine arts teachers because of the upcoming retiring of many in that field of education: "Due to the increasing rate of student enrollment and the large force of teachers reaching retirement age, teaching opportunities in both public and private schools are expected to be favorable for the next few years" (Echaore-Mcdavid 24). As the baby boom generation ages and more retire, fine arts positions will be available to others wanting to enter that market. In fact, by 2016, the vocation of school teachers from Kindergarten through secondary school is anticipated to grow by twelve percent. That is as fast as the average for all other occupations. If one is interested in becoming a fine arts teacher, now is a great time to start preparing.

In certain parts of the United States, the desire for fine arts teachers grows because of the rapid population increase. Currently, there are seven billion people roaming around the planet.

The human populace increases a lot in one year, and all parts of the United States grow in population at different rates: According to *Teachers--- Preschool, Kindergarten, Elementary, Middle, and Secondary*, this fact can make a big impact for teachers everywhere:

Projected enrollments will vary by region. Fast-growing States in the South and West--- led by Nevada, Arizona, Texas, and Georgia--- will experience the largest enrollment increases. Enrollments in the Midwest are expected to hold relatively steady, while those in the Northeast are expected to decline. Teachers who are geographically mobile and who obtain licensure in more than one subject should have a distinct advantage in finding a job. (285)

Depending on where one lives, it can affect the demand for fine arts teachers. The more students, the more teachers needed. The less students, the less teachers needed. Actually, it is very simple logic. In order to find and hold a job, it is very common for fine arts teachers just hired to move to a different part of the United States or rarely a different country.

Now, in the present-day, the decline of available teaching jobs are due to technology taking their places and severe budget problems. Every year, technology is updated in a way that makes it silly and unnecessary to have fine arts teachers. Therefore, it becomes more difficult for fine arts teachers to find jobs: “The job supply is also diminishing because of the advent of electric instruments such as synthesizers, which can replace a whole band, and the increasing trend to use recorded music” (“Musicians” 395). Modernized technology has the ability to create music without the use of humans. In the future, it will make bands and orchestras overrated and possibly boring. Acting jobs might also become scarce because people might be

making animated films because it is cheaper and less time-consuming. Having actors, costume designers, a director, and prep teams cost too much money and are unreasonable when all of this can be illustrated. A computer can invent the voices and light up the setting. Technology is a huge threat to fine arts teachers. Although technology will diminish the value and beauty of music and the arts itself, the popularity of this idea is spreading. The conception of the rapid population increase and the new technology plays a huge part in the undetermined job outlook. On top of that, as the majority of Americans know today, the economy is in a recession, and it is very arduous to find a job. Especially when the competition is very high for citizens specializing in music, drama, or art, the odds are definitely not in their favor. It is very common these days for a school to cut art and music programs. In a bad economy, many schools do not have good luck with fundraising. Instruments and art supplies cost a huge sum of money, so the superintendent decides the best for the school's future is to cut the classes. Because the supply and demand for teachers is constantly changing, a career as a teacher is a hesitant career to choose for the future.

In conclusion, after thoroughly researching a career as a fine arts teacher, I believe that I have found the career that I am interested in pursuing. Maybe, in ten to twenty years, you may watch one of my plays. You will feel the quiet linger after the audience becomes mute. The curtains will go up, and the sound of a melodious voice might fill the air. My students will be in pristine costumes playing characters with all sorts of different personalities being acted out. And, I might be in a seat sitting right next to you smiling at my masterpiece.



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