

Section Two:

First Semester & Second Semester service

I spent first semester volunteering at the Lake County Sheriff's Office. Like I said, I basically felt useless at the Sheriff's Office. I spent my time filing papers for four hours a week, and was disappointed that I did not get to directly interact with people through my volunteering. However, my friend's dad, Mr. Garden, is an officer there, and he felt bad for me sitting in an office filing during my volunteer time, so occasionally he would take me patrolling with him. Even though my experience at the Sheriff's Office was not what I hoped, it was still a worthwhile experience. I had the chance to learn the behind the scenes work at the Sheriff's Office, and it is an impressive volunteer site for an aspiring social sciences major to have on a resume.

Now I volunteer at Elm Street Elementary School, and I absolutely love it. I can now directly interact with people through my volunteering, which is what I hoped for at the Sheriff's Office and never got the opportunity to do. Better yet, I get to work with children, and help them build a foundation for their future. The first hour I spend in Mrs. Klingenberg's Kindergarten classroom, and after spending time in both the classroom and at recess with Kindergarteners, I definitely have a new found respect for Kindergarten teachers. From Mrs. Klingenberg's classroom, I then go to Mrs. Camper's fifth grade class. Going from a Kindergarten classroom to a fifth grade classroom is like two completely different worlds. Most of the time I spend with the fifth grade is helping them with math, which is a good review for me as well. Some of the kids still have yet to comprehend multiplication and division, and I feel like I have been able to really help them in their attempts to comprehend this. My time at Elm Street has truly taught me the importance of patience, and the significance of that quality. While the students may not want to work a lot of the time, I have learned how to inspire them to work and the importance of persistence.

The work I do at Elm Street Elementary School is important to me because I feel like I am making a difference in these kids' lives. I can only hope that I have helped them in some way or another, and have maybe helped make those difficult problems a little easier for them. I believe the work I do is important for both Mrs. Camper and Mrs. Klingenberg as well, for they both seem to really appreciate having a little extra help in a typically chaotic classroom.

Section Two:

Future Behaviors

My volunteer experience has helped alter my future behaviors, attitude, and career because I have learned compassion for those not in a favorable position, and have developed the desire to help these people. My volunteer time at Elm Street has showed me my interest in becoming a teacher, and has potentially opened my eyes to a new potential career.

