

Narrative

Autobiography

I was born July 14, 1986, in Waterloo, Iowa. I grew up in an exciting household with three brothers and one sister; therefore times were never dull. My parents were and still are excellent role models who continue to provide us with a loving and supportive home.

I grew up in a neighborhood where my sister and I were the only girls. I am thankful for this because I quickly learned how to play every sport possible while learning how to work well with others. When middle school began, I played four sports which taught me to manage my time efficiently between academics and sports. By the time high school approached, I started cleaning offices as a weekend job. One aspect I liked about this job was picking my own hours. With this job I learned responsibility and to pay close attention to detail.

I chose Wartburg College because I was interested in the level of education the school could provide me with as well as the chance to play softball. I played softball for one year and decided I would just devote my time to academics. After my freshman year I was having a difficult time picking a major and finally decided to pursue a career in Spanish. In retrospect, my most memorable classes in high school were Spanish classes. I enjoyed learning Spanish and really admired the teachers and their teaching styles. While taking four years of Spanish at high school, and loving every minute of it, I decided to also pursue a career in education.

I am now in my senior year of college. After studying abroad in Puebla, Mexico, for a semester, I have learned to appreciate my education. Studying abroad can teach unimaginable life lessons, and I will always take those experiences with me in the future and use them in my classroom.

Philosophy of Education

Wartburg College has provided me with many opportunities to observe other Spanish teachers. And with these opportunities, I have developed my own philosophy as a future teacher.

In several high schools taking a foreign language is mandatory instead of optional. Therefore, a number of students who lack the desire to learn a foreign language may struggle with Spanish. I plan to have an open and respectful atmosphere in my classroom, where students can make an error and still feel comfortable. With encouragement from me, students may become more motivated to participate in class. Participation is directly correlated to success, and from my personal experience, a foreign language is learned best with trial and error; and in the beginning years, mistakes are frequent.

I think that teaching students practical Spanish in a creative manner is important. It is essential that students learn Spanish in ways that they can apply to everyday events. Songs and games are just a few examples that help keep the attention of students.

It is important to me that I challenge the students weekly. Spanish, like other subjects, requires frequent assessments, and it is important to me to check the progression of the students. Through my teaching, I intend to prepare my students thoroughly for quizzes and tests so they can have success in my classroom.

