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### Classroom Observation Essay

I observed a 400 level behavior management class with Erin Gariott. It is a required class for majoring or minoring in special education. You are required to have a minor in the education school along with your education major. Before class I spoke with sophomore Rosalie Fidanze to get her take on the class and on the education major. Rosalie said she likes the experience that the class gives you because you practice what you'd actually be doing. The only thing that she does not like about the class is that it is at night. One of the things she likes about the education field is the creativity because they're always looking for new things and new teaching strategies.

What interested me about this class was that it teaches you how to deal with kids in a classroom with behavioral issues. To me the hardest thing about teaching would be figuring out how to handle kids who have behavioral issues, so I was curious to see how a teacher is supposed to handle those students.

The day I attended class the students had to give presentations on different theorists. The one that interested me that most was one man did not believe in punishments or rewards. He believed that children should be motivated to do or not do something because it was the right thing to do. He also did not believe in giving grades because he did not want the main focus of learning to be based on what grade you receive, but with what you learn. The class is very discussion based. The professor doesn't lecture and it is a very self-based course with a lot of in-class work time.

Because the students were giving presentations on the day I observed that class I asked some of the students after how the class is on a normal day. They said that they usually start the class with a community building activity to get to know the other students in the class. This

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semester the students have been learning how to fill out certain forms that special education teachers would fill out for students. For example, functional behavior plans, behavior assessment plans, and behavior intervention plans.

The class I sat in on was actually very informative and opened my eyes to many different theorists' opinions on how to teach and handle varieties of students. I was surprisingly interested in the topics that were discussed and the class exceeded my expectations. The class is very self-based which is compatible with my learning style, I am very independent and like to learn at my own pace. If I were to go into education I probably would minor with special education so I would have to take more classes like this one. I would want to take more classes with this professor because I like the way she conducts her lessons. The skills that are developed in this class give you actual experience with what you would deal with while working in the education field.

Education is something that I am strongly considering going in to. Minorng with special education is the most probable because going into teaching you do not know what kind of students you will get, so classes like this behavior management class would help prepare me to handle any situation.