

ED 634: Take Aways from Our Many Course Sections

Intro: What I hoped to gain from this class, according to my introduction, was a chance to reflect and pull together some of what I have learned throughout my MSUM Ed Lead experience. As I wrap up this class I am seven credits from completing all coursework toward my Masters and a K-12 Principle license. What I have learned, upon reflection, is that I have much to learn.

PLN: Speaking of much to learn. If there is an area in which I need to focus my efforts (other than Special Ed and 504 plans) it is growing my Professional Learning Network and better using social media to brand my school, share my message, and celebrate my staff.

Leadership Essay: I found this exercise a useful new take on the learning style and personality tests/surveys I have taken over the years. What's nice about the Strength Based Leadership book and resources is that it is focused on leadership styles. What's nice about the resources provided online ad in the book is that they not only help you learn about yourself but also give you insight into those around you. It's a useful tool for better team building and a more open and productive way of forming teams with people that complement one another.

Story Telling, Listening, and Tough Conversations: This section provided a wealth of information about different ways to tackle some of our toughest conversations. It also opened the door to a vast amount of peer dialogue and countless personal experiences from which we could learn from one another.

Ethics: The story of Coach Joe and accompanying discussion via Twitter was fast and furious. Our class seemed divided as to whether we'd have made the same decision as Simms in hiring Joe at our respective schools. But it appeared that each of us put a great deal of thought into our positions and those positions seemed rooted in the various codes of ethics with which we were presented. The Twitter feed class got off to a rough start for me as I was trying to monitor it in Twitterchat but found it much easier to go directly to the #ed634 room and follow along from there. That, and I kept forgetting to add the hashtag, so I was typing everything twice. It was a good experience though and again reinforced my need to focus some time and attention on more proficient use of social media as a whole.

The Advantage: This was a very conversational and easy-to-read book that worked well as a culminating text for this class. It nicely tied together some of the topics covered in this, and other, Ed Lead courses and re-emphasized for me the need to humble myself at the door of collaboration and truly grow *with* my teachers.