

## Essay

Please write and title a 500-700-word essay on the following theme:

*School districts throughout Missouri and the nation are facing a shortage of teachers. In your essay, identify and explain how best to recruit students to pursue a teaching career. Reflect upon those teachers whom you consider to be excellent teachers. What skills are needed to be a high-quality teacher? Please provide examples of how high-quality teaching inspired you to succeed as a student.*

The best way to recruit students to pursue a teaching career is to explain in depth the benefits that come with this career path. You hear far too often teachers complaining about parts of their jobs, but they hardly spend any time discussing how great the opportunity to teach is. Teaching can be displayed as a chance to make a difference in children's lives. This job isn't limited to one way of thinking. You can teach anything that you are passionate about; it isn't limited to the core curriculum.

The time teachers work and their scheduling has many positives to it. Especially for parents, having the same schedule as their kids is extremely important and helpful for family life. Along with the same daily schedule as their kids, teachers also get a large break during the summer as well as paid holiday breaks without having to take personal leave. They have a great retirement plan that grows exponentially with each year of teaching. Teachers also get in return the knowledge that they are personally touching and improving the lives of future generations. That benefit is something that just doesn't come with any other job.

I believe the core skills that every great teacher has are patience, a passion for teaching and learning, and communication and listening skills. Personally, patience in a teacher has been my greatest help in school. It creates an environment where you don't feel like you're being pressured to know the information, rather you are encouraged to keep trying until you understand the concept being taught. Being passionate makes learning more enjoyable because the teacher having fun coaxes their students into also having fun. Communication and listening skills are important because it helps resolve problems in the classroom effectively. These abilities also help develop relationships with the students that will be cherished.

I have a few notable teachers that have inspired me to succeed. The first teacher that comes to my mind when I think about those that have influenced me is my speech therapy teacher. Although I have made huge progress in expressing myself and my communication, I started out severely behind in my expressive speech. I was terrified of being around new people and I was uncomfortable in social situations. I dropped out of a spelling bee and a geography bee because I couldn't handle the attention from the crowd. My speech therapy teacher was patient with me and was passionate to see my progress. She was able to communicate with me so I would open up and she listened to what I had to say. Throughout elementary school, she helped build my confidence and motivated me to do my best in school. If I could work hard to overcome my personal difficulties, I could work hard to triumph in school.

My band teacher was the next instructor that inspired me. When I started band in 6th grade it was a stressful experience for me. The concerts and playing tests in combination with the larger school with different teachers made me uncomfortable, but my band teacher helped me through it all. She was understanding and patient even when I was too worried to practice marching with the high school for the Homecoming parade. She didn't give up on me and guided me towards self-improvement and with it self-confidence. Thanks to her I was able to tame my emotions and perform Taps at the Veteran's Day Assembly in front of the entire school. Her attention to me, letting me grow at my own pace, and passion for me to succeed made me believe in myself and my abilities. I will use this confidence to continue growing and make every effort to make my education flourish.