

Role model, comforter, instructor- all these and more describe teachers. Looking back on my life, the most impactful influences have been educators. In the nation today, there is a shortage of teachers, but luckily many methods exist to encourage prospective teachers to choose this career path.

One way to recruit students to pursue a teaching career is to have other students share testimonies of how teachers have impacted their lives. This would allow students to recognize the role that teachers have had on their fellow classmates. Another way to inspire students would be to allow high school students to job shadow teachers in their specific interest areas. For example, if a student enjoys working with younger children, they could job shadow in an elementary classroom. This would give them a greater understanding of the role of a teacher and show the impact they have.

One thing that might discourage students from pursuing a teaching career is if they are constantly being told all of the negative aspects that can come with teaching. While it is important to show the positive and negatives to a future career option, constantly hearing the negative discourages students. One way to encourage a student is to show them both sides and offer solutions to common problems that might arise. Prospective teachers can be given information on how to deal with unruly classrooms and hear solutions to common issues, such as a lack of subs, teachers having to work through their plan times, increasing demands and pressures on the teacher, or the dissatisfaction of current teachers. By explaining solutions to these problems teachers will prevent the discouragement of pursuing education.

Another way to encourage students to become teachers is for the school district to forgive student loans for new teachers. This might make a college student choose education over a

different degree, if they know that they will not have to worry about student loans in the future. The cost of college greatly impacts the decisions students make when figuring out their future plans.

In my life, I have been fortunate enough to have many excellent teachers. My fourth grade teacher is one teacher in particular that has greatly impacted my life. Some qualities she possesses that allow her to be such an amazing teacher is that she was passionate about her job, cared about her students and their success, and wanted to help students in whatever ways she could. Some other qualities she had that made her a high quality teacher is that she was compassionate, a good listener, paid attention to small details, was hardworking, put her students first, and always pushed us to do our best. Having her as a teacher taught me how to interact with classmates, build friendships, and study for tests. Reading was also important to her and after being in her class, I discovered my love for reading.

Another high-quality teacher was my Honors English teacher in high school. I was fortunate to have this teacher for three years. This teacher had many of the same qualities as my fourth grade teacher. One of the biggest impacts she had on my life is that she made me realize the power of education. She continually instilled upon her students the power that knowledge can have and how we should never stop learning new things. She also taught me to always push myself to achieve greatness. She told us how we are capable of conquering our dreams and that we should work hard in everything we do.