

WTAMU Reflective Essay

Lilia B. Trayler

West Texas A&M University

Canyon, Texas 79015

traylerlilia@gmail.com

806-338-0410

My Experience at WTAMU Abstract

I have always planned on getting my degree from West Texas, ever since I was little I was their biggest fan. Although the music world has widened my small world, when it was time to choose an acceptance letter, I chose WTAMU. Choosing a college that has taught me true teamwork and compassion for one another will always be one of the proudest decisions I made. Not only have I learned how to be a strong woman, but the school of music at WTAMU has opened so many opportunities for myself. I have had the opportunity to play in major ensembles along with composing pieces to be played by peers. In this reflection essay I will spend some time explaining what made me decide I want to teach instead of perform or therapy. I had one major life change that altered my look on life but also my teaching goals.

My Reasoning for Education in Music

I have always been impacted by family members who were musically inclined. I grew up learning multiple instruments at a time. This, as you can imagine, led me to burn out when I got to college. I unfortunately had a professor who went out of their way to make it difficult on the students, because there was something personal going on in their lives. The moment that I realized I started to burn out over something that has been my passion since I was ten, made me realize I wanted to go out into the teaching world to be the opposite of that professor. Throughout my education classes I have really enjoyed getting the chance to learn about “culture of error” classrooms. These classrooms encourage error, for it is impossible to fix said error without being confident in the error and receiving helpful not downgrading responses. Overall my family planted the seed for music, but it is what stomped on it that made it grow. I will forever be thankful for that person for letting me realize what kind of strength these children need everyday that comes from the teacher.

Opportunities at WTAMU

During my 5 years at WTAMU I have had the opportunity to perform in the West Texas Marching Band for 4 years. This widened my horizon in my knowledge of marching. Not only did I learn 4 different core marching shows, I also learned 3 years of military marching. I am confident I can go out and teach both marching styles to the best of my ability with my experience. I participated in the concert band for 4 years which allowed me to perform spectacular music with my college peers. Being in a concert band has taught me resilience and hope for the day to come. The therapy that was brought to us by Dr. Teweleit without us realizing in the moment is irreplaceable and encourages me to to be the best version of myself for future

students. Having the opportunity to practice music everyday and to physically see progress is something I will forever cherish. I also had the chance to teach private flute lessons to local and global students. My first student was from florida and we met through a private lesson website made for students during covid. This production was completely free for the student and I volunteered and was chosen. I taught this student for 2 of my collegiate years. The student taught me more than I taught her. It was my true first experience where I had control. I made lesson plans and organized. I have since had 4 local lesson students. Two of which made the ATSSB All State Band. I am in no way taking ownership of their success, but I will forever be proud of the work those students personally showed me.