Social Studies Lesson Reflection

Overall, I am feeling pleased regarding my social studies lesson. This lesson was very unique for me, as this was the first time I have taught a lesson that basically covered two curriculum topics at once. The lesson I taught actually came from the 5th grade reading text, and was designed to be taught as a reading assignment. However, at the request of Mrs. Dunn, my mentor teacher, I combined the two lessons, and used the story “When Esther Morris Headed West” as an introduction to the social studies unit they are about to begin (which covers the 19th Amendment). This lesson was the first lesson that I taught to Mrs. Dunn’s class, and it was a great chance to really get a feel for the students and what classroom management techniques should come into play.

An area of strength that I feel I was able to portray in this lesson was differentiated instruction. I read the story aloud, we discussed important topics that were relevant to voting and women’s rights, and we took the opportunity to write about ways that we can apply or have applied these same dispositions to our own lives. It was also important to address the concept that if you take a stand for what you believe in, it can make a difference.

An area of weakness actually comes from the lack of technology. There are so many different ways I could have made this more interesting for the students, simply by adding an element of technology. With students being so actively engaged in a technological world, I should have used it to my advantage. Many students tend to think of history as “boring” but if I would have used a web tool that was fun and flashy, they may have wanted to become more involved. In the future, if reteaching this lesson, technology is a must!

I am pleased with the majority of this lesson. It was a great way to introduce a new topic and add an element of writing as well.