

Final Reflection Paper

I believe I achieved my learning goals this semester more than I expected. I have been able to experience new things that I would not have been able to if I had not interned with the Chattanooga School of Language. I have been able to develop my knowledge on the inner workings of a small business, aid in tying the community together with cultural events, and improving my knowledge on the best ways students learn a new language. I have grown tremendously over the semester and I am very honored to have been a part of the Chattanooga School of Language.

My initial learning goal was to learn how an independent business runs. I now know that there are numerous interchangeable parts, and that people must not only be flexible, but be willing to help when there are improvements or changes to be made. Some teachers teach private or group classes at the language school, while others have contracts with local elementary schools or businesses. Teachers will go to the Volkswagen plant and teach employees, or to local schools that have school hours or after school hours language classes. An independent business thrives when it is able to advertise its programs and get its name out.

Furthermore, I was able to aid in community cultural events that connected the community together as a whole. I have participated in the Culture Fest at the Chattanooga Market, the Volkswagen Fall Health Fair, and the MainX24 Southside Holiday Parade. I also helped in organizing the Holiday Open House event at the Chattanooga School of Language. These events in total have opened my eyes to the ability of a community to work together for a greater cause, and how much people are interested in learning new languages. Each one has taught me something new and helped me grow as a language and cultural activist.

Moreover, students learning a new language is beneficial not only to the child, but also to the future of our political relations. After sitting in on a Spanish class with second and third graders, I have learned that they learn best by repetition and an interesting delivery of material. Such as a song, or having the kids move and interact with the words and the classroom around them. Visual representations of words allows for it to better stay in a student's' memory, as well as being aware that everyone learns differently. While also hearing stories about another teacher's after school Spanish classes, I learned that some students are there because they want to be and are interested in learning, and others have to be there because their parents want them to, making them less involved in the subject. In order to learn a new language, students have to be fully engaged and interested to learn it best.

Overall, I have truly learned a lot and have grown over the semester. Interning with the Chattanooga School of Language has allowed me to improve my knowledge on an independent business, aid in community cultural events, and learn how students best learn a language. These experiences have continued to shape me as a person and I am now better able to succeed in my future career goals than before. I look forward to working with the Chattanooga School of Language in the future with possibly taking classes!