

Reflection – EDUC 851
Research in Teacher Education
Dr. Gary Galluzzo
Fall 2009

The purpose of this course was to discuss the history and development of the research of teacher education, looking for gaps in the study of the research concerning the preparation and continuing development of teachers. I liked that this course was focused on teacher preparation and not methods of teaching as it seems often attention is focused on how teachers teach rather than how teachers are prepared.

One of the things I liked the best about this class was the variety of issues within the realm of teacher education that we were exposed to. The “Handbook”, and I put it in quotes because it is this massive, four-inch thick bible of teacher education, provided both historical viewpoint and current practices. What one couldn’t find in the “Handbook”, a good search of the *Journal of Teacher Education (JTE)* was often able to produce. Nonetheless, when Dr. Galluzzo asked us to find a topic for our research proposal, I was surprised to find that neither the “Handbook” nor the *JTE* covered much about research concerning that class of teachers who leave the profession after those critical first five years, or even after year eight. I wondered about mid-career group, perhaps in years eight to 20. What are the factors that drive these teachers out of the classroom and where do they go? Are they doing something like I am and going to school? Do they move to counseling or administration? Do they leave education altogether? Of course, I had personal reasons for wanting to know about this.

One of the other things that came out of this course is a thought that I might like to get back into writing. Before I started in education, I was working in journalism and I am starting to miss writing again. I find that I do like research and am continually looking for opportunities to present which often means conducting my own research, writing and then preparing the slides for the presentation. This was an unexpected thing that came out of the course but I do appreciate it.

In terms of artifacts, my completed research proposal is included. This is the first research proposal I have written. Dr. Galluzzo did provide the class with a template to help guide us along.