

My Educational Influences

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2006

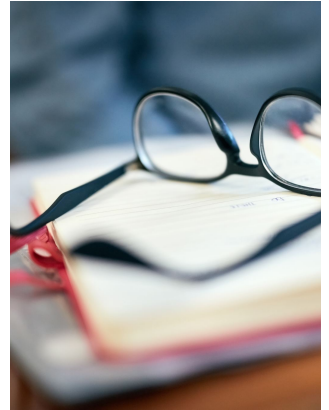
In 2006, I was in grade 3 and my teacher, Mrs. James was so brilliant in keeping lessons exciting. This is one of the teachers that comes to mind when I think back to who my best teachers were and why. She wasn't necessarily my favorite, but she was one of my best and I think there is a difference. Her lessons are the only ones that I can vividly remember. She made her lessons so fun by incorporating lots of art and culture and we did so many things as a collaborative which really made our class feel like a team. Reflecting on my experience in her class made me realize how important it is to keep lessons interactive and exciting for my students so they will remember them.

One of my favorite things we did in Ms. James's class was make spring rolls for Chinese New Year!



2011

In 2011, which was grade 9 for me, I had my favourite teacher of all time. This was my first year in high school which is a scary time for any student entering a new environment. Everyone around me was so much bigger than me, my schedule was confusing, and I was separated from my friends. As soon as I walked into Mrs. Cosh's class, I immediately felt a calm come over me. She was so welcoming and friendly but had a great way of establishing mutual respect with her class. I later found out that it was her first year at my high school as well. She is the reason I want to be a teacher and I want to be the type of teacher that can step into any environment whether I have been there five minutes, or five years and make it feel like a safe and welcoming space for my students.



2014

Another experience which has heavily influenced me in becoming a teacher was my time as an assistant teacher for my high school dance program. Though I faced many challenges, when I began connecting with the students and I could feel I was gaining their trust, it was one of the best feelings ever. I knew I was in a position where the students were looking up to me as a role model and I took that very seriously. It became clear to me that this was a feeling I wanted to experience on a greater level. Taking on that role taught me a lot as it showed me that the good side of teaching outweighs the bad. I faced a lot of struggles in gaining respect but once I had it, everything changed.

Me and two of my students!



2014

In 2014, I went to New York City with my mom and my grandma for the first time. This experience was not only incredible, but it was very eye-opening. By this point, I was already quite certain that I was going to head down the path of becoming a teacher but visiting a city like New York offered me a lot of clarity. We often passed by schools that looked so different than the ones I had grown up in, which were surrounded by mountains and agriculture. I loved the small community I had grown up in and going on this trip showed me that as much as I love visiting a big city, I wanted to teach in a small town like Armstrong.

Me in New York City!



2016

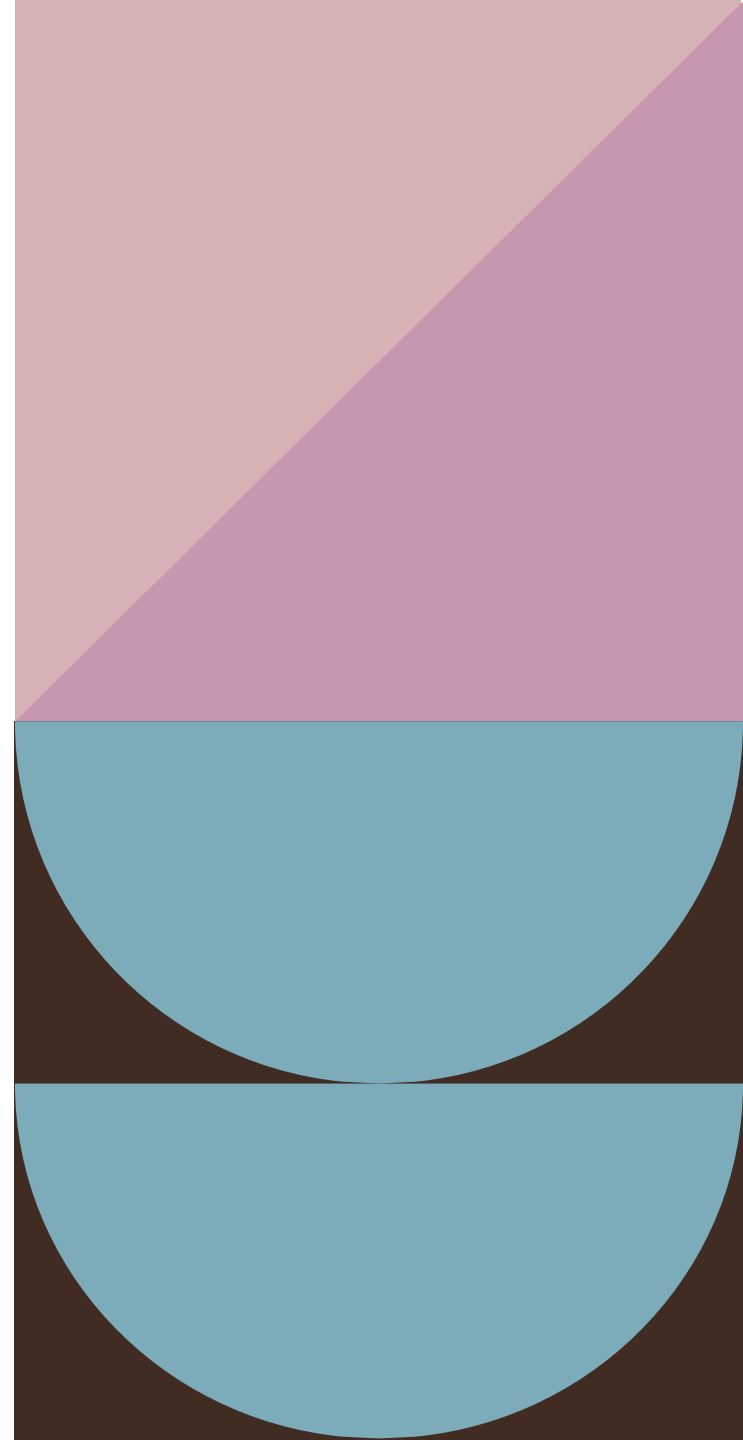
In 2016, I took a trip with my best friend to Europe. This was a strange year for me. I had just graduated high school and I decided to put off my university journey for a year. This decision was tough, and for the first time in a long time, I had doubts about whether I wanted to be a teacher. I had not got out of my small hometown and experienced anything on my own yet. Going to Europe with my best friend when we were 18 gave me a lot of clarity because I was able to get the itch out of my system and I learned a lot about myself. Even while I was having the time of my life there, I had a very strong feeling that I was ready to go to school and begin the path I had wanted to be on for the past four years.

Here I am in Budapest!



2019

Not only have I been fortunate to have great teachers in elementary and high school, but I have also had some life- changing professors in university. In my third year of university, I took a class on the philosophy of rock music with Bruce Baugh. Bruce's teaching style impacted me greatly. He was so passionate, and he really knew his stuff. It was such an interesting class that tied into some important facets of how music connects to our society and our everyday lives. It inspired me to think outside of the box going into teaching and to find things that I am passionate and make those connections to lesson planning. It truly does make a difference when the teacher is passionate and engaged and I really felt that with Bruce.



2020

Mrs. Gillis was my high school dance teacher. Over the four years I had her as my teacher, we became very close. I felt like I knew her well and I watched her interact with students all the time. However, when it came time to volunteer in a classroom, I asked her if I could come to her class. She was no longer a dance teacher; she was now a French teacher. One morning, a grade ten boy who was very disgruntled about something, made a rude comment to her. She handled the situation with such ease. I watched her speak calmly to him as she opened a space that was safe for him. He proceeded to confess some things that were happening in his personal life, and he apologized for how he spoke to her. That moment lit a fire in me, as it showed me that teachers play such a pivotal role in all aspects of a student's life. They can crack even the toughest shells; it just takes time and patience and that is exactly what I want to do for my students in the future.

Me and Ms. Gillis at my graduation!



2021

The final person which truly sealed the deal for me was my Anthropology professor in my final semester of my undergrad. Everything moved online during the height of Covid, and I was quite miserable and burnt out. I was questioning everything, and I did not know if I even wanted to teach anymore. Lisa Cooke changed a lot of those feelings. The class and the content itself were brilliant but Lisa as a person was so incredible in the way she interacted with us. It was so easy to tell that she genuinely cared about us as her students, and she cared about our mental health. She often reached out to simply check in with us to make sure we were okay. Looking back now, I realize how much that impacted me as it reminded me that there was a purpose to why I was working so hard. I hope I can always encourage my students the way Lisa encouraged me.



Bachelor of Arts Graduation

Thanks for watching!

