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ED599 Culminating Masters’ Project

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**Culminating Project Proposal**

For my masters’ project, I am interested in writing a small book on ways to make math easier and also add quotes from my students (past and present) and peers. Math test scores is a major issue when it comes to students passing the keystone, and scoring high on SAT. I work in an inner city school, and I teach mathematics. Where test scores are low, students need a calculator just to add, subtract, multiply and divide. And where students look at math as a hard subject and always make statements like: “Why do we need this?” “I’m not going to use this in real life.” By working in this genre, I have a unique opportunity to share personal experiences from my peers, students and myself. When I was in high school math wasn’t my favorite subject, the teacher didn’t make it fun, and I had summer school for math just about every year. If nothing else, I can relate to my students.

Education wasn’t what I originally went to school for. I lost my job at a non-profit organization, my unemployment ran out and I had to get a job ASAP. I started substitute teaching math, and afterwards I was just hooked. I became hooked because it was a challenge. My battle was (and still is) getting my students to listen, study and use formulas, and getting them to at least grade level. Multiplication is a major issue, and if students don’t know their multiplication facts, it’s hard to move to the next level.

I want to create a book where I can find different approaches to math that can make it rewarding, unforgettable, and not such a Mental Abuse To Humans. I will also add in quotes from my students and coworkers on the subject. I think my literature will inform others that math isn’t as hard as they make it seem.

 I believe I have a unique position by teaching math and also being a student who also thought math was a terror when I was in school. Because I have worked in this environment for seven years, I am also very zealous about this issue. I think Math education does not appeal to many teachers, students, and parents because they instantly think it’s a hard subject. I would like my book to not only be informative, but also provide resources and strategies for how teachers and students can effectively learn from one another.

I will be using my co-workers and students at school when gathering information. I plan to ask at least one math professor, and some parents as well to get their input about this book. I have some great co-workers who could offer their input. They would all be valuable resources to get information from.

Some topics I hope to include in my book are:

* Students perspectives on Math
* Teachers perspective on Math
* Why Math is important
* Different ways to remember simple formulas
* Positive Quotes from students and coworkers
* Negate the fact that math isn’t as hard as it people make it out to be

I would need to start with asking the teachers, parents, and students I will be using to gather data. I would gather as much information as possible before developing a chapter and a format. I am not sure about a final presentation as of yet. Once my book is complete, I would give s copy to my students and have them read it and discuss their thoughts on it as well.