

Mark Curcio

CI495C

Reflection 3

#### Lesson #4: Trial Debate – Macbeth vs. Lady Macbeth

Because of the success of my Quote Chart and the fact that midterm had just passed, I was on such a roll teaching that I decided to ask my supervisor to come in for my final observation to get it over with. I'm glad I made the decision I did because my lesson of the trial debate ended up being a great learning experience for myself as a teacher and, more importantly, for my students as well.

The lesson was pretty simple, but it was the type of lesson that could only be done at the very end of a certain text, in this case Macbeth. The lesson was to first separate the students into three groups: a jury, Macbeth defenders, and Lady Macbeth defenders, then give both sides three topics up for debate and allow them to duke it out using quotes, scenes, and information from the text. At first it started out slow, but once each side gave their rebuttals halfway in, everyone blew up and it created for a very positive and extremely reflective learning experience. Although there were a handful of students that "took over the show," so to speak, the underachieving students also had their moments which were good to see.

After the activity, I'd say a good five to six students said as they were walking out, "Wow, that was fun" and "Everyone was so into that." I am very big into quotes and those are some of the quotes that I'll never forget being I am currently only a pre-service teacher. As for the quotes that mattered, ie from my supervisor, they were mostly positive. The only thing he mentioned to me to work on was to try and get everyone involved because there were a handful of students who participated more than others. This made sense to me because the goal of the activity was to get everyone involved and become one with the play. Although some did not participate, I believe that the activity was a success based on the comments of my students, mentor, and supervisor after class.

