**Reflection Process**

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Adapted from The Principal Portfolio, 2nd Edition (2000) by G. Brown and B. Irby

*Artifact: Identify the assignment. (Optional) Include any documents that support your completion of the assignment (documents may be scanned).*

001.3 The case of Tereance D. and Wanda D. v. School District of Philadelphia

*Describe: Describe the findings for the assignments.*

The Philadelphia School District failed to provide a FAPE to Tereance D for many years. The district conducted inadequate evaluations, misdiagnosed the child as first being mentally retarded and emotionally disturbed and finally autistic, and intentionally misled his mother about her son’s right to autistic services and extended year services (ESY).

During the early intervention process, a district psychologist reported that Tereance needed learning support in order to receive a FAPE, the district placed him in a kindergarten classroom, but failed to give him the support needed. A year later, the district suspected that Tereance exhibited behaviors of a child with autism. The district conducted evaluations but they were flawed and not completed. The school district offered ESY services but they did not meet state or federal law and this mislead many parents of their ESY rights.

The court decided that the school system:

* Did not properly evaluate Tereance
* The school evaluator was not competent to evaluate a child with autism
* Teacher of students with autism where not adequately trained
* The evaluation specialist misdiagnosed Tereance
* The school staff misrepresented to the parent the availability of autism support services and extended year services

The hearing officer ruled in favor of the parent and awarding limited compensatory education, holding that the statute of limitations expired on some claims.

*Analyze: a. Describe the importance of the findings for the assignment.*

As an evaluation specialist one of your duties is to provide thorough evaluations to conclude the strengths and weaknesses of students suspected or have disabilities. The evaluation specialist that conducted the evaluations with Tereance was indeed incompetent. There should never be a situation where a child with disabilities is given three individual disability labels on three separate occasions. Going from having an intellectual disability, to an emotional disturbance, and finally having autism is not acceptable. No one was adequately doing their job as it is clearly laid out in their job descriptions. Child with autism exhibit very distinctive characteristics ones that are far from being intellectually disabled or emotionally disturbed. This is not just a district level problem, but a national issue to make sure that evaluation specialist receive the appropriate training, teachers of autistic students whether special or general education are trained and parents know their rights. The school district does owe this child compensatory time for the FAPE that he missed.

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*b. Include connections to your 5 year goals or desired position.*

My desired position as a future independent contractor will enable me to fulfill my mission as a life-long learner.

*c. Compare/contrast elements in your findings to your experiences or previous knowledge.*

My experiences and previous knowledge has been enhanced by my education, research in the case studies I have reviewed, and direct on the job training with special education children.

*Appraise: Critique or describe whether any of your findings were beneficial to you or not.*

My findings are very beneficial because partnerships with the parent, school and community need to be improved

*Transform: a. Describe any future ideas or insights you gained.*

Insights I have gained include a heightened awareness of due process implications.

*b. Describe future plans for use of the ideas presented, including any changes in your current practices or, describe how the information confirmed your current practices and/or beliefs.*

My future plans are directly on target with the need to provide quality, individualized, education services for special needs citizens and increase parent and community involvement.