Emily Allen  
Section 2  
January 30, 2012

**Reading Response #1 (Ayres Ch 1)**

I found this chapter to be very insightful, as it brought up many of the challenging aspects of being a teacher. One part that interested me was the discussion of why someone would want to become a teacher. Ayers mentions many negative aspects of teaching (low pay, low status, etc.) which can further be added to when dealing with music teaching (risk of cuts, lack of respect for music, etc.). Many of these points are expanded upon, making it seem as if becoming a teacher is the craziest decision a person can make. Then, Ayres flip the question and asks why *should* we teach? IN my opinion, if you hear all the negatives about teaching, and still have the desire to pursue it, then teaching is the right profession for you. Teaching (specifically music teaching) isn’t about all the stuff you won’t get but, rather, about what you will gain. This can be seen throughout the chapter in all the short stories about Ayres’ previous students. The joy of witnessing a child accomplish a goal, helping a student master a new skill, leading a class in a fun activity that encourages learning. That is why we should teach. As musicians, we possess the ultimate gift; the ability to make music. I believe that not sharing it with others would be a waste. The joys that come from teaching others about music, surpasses all the negatives that accompany the job.

I also found it interesting to read the explanations of the teaching myths we discussed in class. Again, many can be applied to music teaching. Myth 7, for example, states that good teachers treat all their students alike. When teaching music, it is almost impossible that all of your students are at the same level. Therefore, it is important to teach to the level of each student, giving the more advanced students challenging parts and helping along the students that are behind. In addition to different ability levels, each student has a differing level of desire to improve. One student may just play an instrument for fun while another may be considering a career in music. In this case, you may be a little tougher on the second student in order to help him or her reach the level they should be at. Each of these myths were well analyzed and really gave me further insight on what teaching is al about.