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**Journal 3**

Looking back at my previous journal, I realize that I still agree with my views on music education from the beginning of the semester. However, I feel that I now have a more complex and in depth view of exactly what music education is. At the beginning of the semester, I understood the basic goal of music education; provide each of our students with the resources to appreciate and be inspired by music. And, although I was on the right track with this goal, I was missing one major part. How do we teach music? What methods work best in passing information onto our students? Most importantly, in what ways can we teach our students so that they will be inspired and desire to learn more?

Now, after two months of learning about teaching and even getting to teach a little, I have come to the realization that there is no perfect teaching method. It doesn’t matter if you have great explanations and visual and audio examples; there will always be one or more students who just needs some extra help understanding the content. As music educators, we must help students to understand the material, even if it means straying from the original plan. I have also learned that, even though there is no perfect teaching method, certain methods have been proven to work better than others. Project based learning, for example, is a very effective method because the student is essentially learning on their own through their research. Also, I think it is important to present the information in a way that students will enjoy learning. We want each of our students to learn to love music so, if they do not enjoy what they are learning, they probably will not develop much of an appreciation of music. Basically, even though there is no way to teach perfectly, it is a music educator’s job to improve their teaching skills and become as effective as possible.