Values of Importance

Looking back upon my best teachers, I have found that I basically learned how to be human, how to be happy, and how to cope when I feel neither. The few teachers I felt really strongly about shared similar values and those values exuded from them. Honesty, individuality, love, respect, and steadfastness are a few of the things I took with me from my past teachers. I hope I can someday contribute these values to the lives of others.

First and foremost, I value honesty. Though no one is perfectly honest all the time, (white lies are occasionally needed to spare feelings), an honest person is extremely valuable. Not only honest in the sense that one feels stealing is wrong, or lying to someone is wrong, but in the sense that one can be real. To have an innate urge to find the truth in others and in oneself is what I strive to live. Demonstrating the importance of honesty in the classroom will not only assist students with academic situations, but in their life-long relationships.

Being honest about oneself- seeing the individuality in each person is also an important value. My 11th grade art teacher made me feel for the first time that I was different and that it was a very good thing. Before this revelation, I had been led to believe that conforming to the “norm” was the only way to exist. I now see the tragic flaw in that way of thinking. So much good in the world is lost because people are scared
to contribute themselves for fear of being singled out. I hope to encourage future students
to be aware of their individuality and to express it in any positive way they can.

To love oneself for what they are makes loving others much easier. Love for
others is also extremely valuable. In a world where hate has so many in its grips, pitting
person against person, religion against religion, love is a welcome remedy. When one
sincerely loves, one forgives. One respects, one trusts, one gives. A student who learns
early to love and knows the importance of love will live a happier life.

Love lends itself to respect and respect is yet another value I hope to instill upon
students. Respect for self, respect for others, and respect for the earth. I believe that the
lack of knowledge makes respect a difficult concept for many. A society that lacks basic
respect for human life is a society full of negativity. I remember being taught by my
parents, (my favorite teachers), to respect other’s feelings and property. I feel I am a
better person today because I was taught to respect and be empathetic.

Finally, important is the value of being steadfast. To keep working in the face of
adversity is a difficult thing to do. Life presents today’s students with many obstacles and
to have a sense that things are worth working for- laboring for, is important in creating a
driven person. Throughout school, I knew I would need to earn a scholarship to help my
family pay for college. There were times when I would have much rather been hanging
out with my friends or just relaxing, but instead I worked to earn the grades necessary for
a scholarship. I was motivated to do something that sometimes felt like a waste of my
time, but I knew it would someday pay off. Giving up is sometimes not the best thing to do. Nothing feels better than earning something honestly and receiving it.

It is my hope that the values I hold dear will positively affect my future student’s lives. So many things are valuable in life, but I feel these: honesty, individuality, love, respect, and steadfastness are among the most important.