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Mentoring Reflection

For my mentoring project I had the chance to revisit my old high school. I got the chance to work with Mr. David Helm. Though I had never personally had a class with him when I was in high school I had many friends who did and would talk about what a wonderful teacher he was. I am very glad that I got to experience this first hand, because he truly is an excellent teacher.

Upon approaching him about the mentoring project, he expressed his desire for me to work with one particular student, Bill Freeman. He explained to me that Bill refused to do any work at all unless he was worked with on a one on one bases. Bills average in the class was 32% and this far into the school year it was not probable that he would get a passing grade with or with out my help but I took David’s recommendation and began to work with Bill. The first day that I met Bill was a little discouraging in that he had no interaction with me or that class, he just slept the whole entire time. The next meeting with him I sat down in front of him and proceeded to convince him to do his schoolwork. I found that Bill was a very intelligent young man. He just seemed to have no motivation when it came to his education. Though my time working with him he excelled in every in class assignment we did and even had the highest score on a chapter test. Not only did I find that he could excel in his studies if worked with but also he was talented in writing poetry and short stories. I got the chance to read a few and was amazed at the talent of this quite student. Also, while I was there Bill became more social and interactive with his other classmates. He began to answer questions in class and even help other students with their class work. I was very impressed with his quick progress and sharp intellect. I hoped that I had help he out but it is hard to tell.

After I completed my required hours I missed a week and then went back to help some more. I had found that I truly enjoyed working with Bill and interacted with some of the other students in the classroom. When I returned to the class
though I found Bill back in his corner with his head down once again refusing to do any work. I also found out that while I was gone he had not completed a single thing. He went back to not participating and being non-social. I was very discouraged. As soon as he saw me, he perked up and did his class work. I feel that they only way that he will ever get on the right track is for some one to work with him on a constant bases for a long period of time before he will be able to continue on his own. I wish that I could devote that time because he is truly a bright and talented kid, I just think that he needs to be convinced of that.

After working with Bill, I feel that more programs to work one on one should be started, but I know that this is unlikely. I say that because I am aware of the cost and time allowances that it would take in order to do this. Also, most teachers have so much that they are trying to take care of it is hard to address every single student. This is why unfortunately some will always fall through the cracks.