**Reflection**

This was an interview assignment for SPED 730, a KU Master’s Degree course that deals with the introduction to struggling learners and students with high-incidence disabilities. This particular assignment was an opportunity to show my understanding of characteristics, assessment and identification process, and initial instructional and behavioral interventions needed when meeting the needs of students with high-incidence disabilities. Through this application, my understanding of specialized services, frameworks for instruction, conceptualizing best practice, and the role of the special educator is explored and evident.

The purpose of this project was to select, interview, and learn from a teacher, related service provider, or an administrator who interacts with individuals with disabilities on a regular basis and who currently occupies a position that I hope to have as well as who I see as a mentor or inspiration. I chose to interview Maschielle Stahlman, a favorite teacher who has been a general education teacher along with currently holding an ELA special education teacher position. Additionally, I truly relate to Maschielle, as her career journey is similar to my studies; she inspires me to continue the path I am on for special education.

As a result of my hard work and dedication, I received full marks with positive feedback from Professor Sean Smith. There was not feedback to improve or work on my project, so I chose not to revise. Additionally, I did review the rubric to determine if there was any further work I would like to incorporate. I also checked for grammatical and structural errors. There were none, and so in this I made sure to examine the project carefully to determine if there was any other changes I wanted to make that might improve the product.

As I reflect, I realize how I learned valuable information from this interview such as the importance of having a teaching philosophy. The interviewee’s teaching philosophy is “Teaching is about building mutually respectful, child-centered, positive relationships with students, families, and colleagues.” My philosophy is similar in that it is my responsibility to help others; specifically my students as I collaborate with students, families, and colleagues to create social advocates that help build a positive, respectful environment. Through this interview adventure, I not only saw through the eyes of a fellow educator, I learned more about myself and what drives me to be a teacher. Overall, I sat down and really thought about the next steps in this field, what I learned over the course of this semester, how I can apply it to current practice, and the process in which I hear and apply my connections.