Professional Response 1

Although grades are generally an accurate reflection of work ethic and the amount of effort put into assignments, I do not feel that grades are always an accurate indication of what I have learned. I follow instructions, complete assignments, and put effort into my work. However, there are some occasions where I feel that I didn’t benefit from the assignment. Certain things may not have contributed to my learning, but helped me to pass a class. On the other hand, there have been times that I learned a great deal when I received a poor grade on an assignment. For me, it is about the experience and the learning process rather than how many points I earn. In a particular general education course, I earned an “A” after doing what I thought was tedious work with little results. I completed the assignments and fairly earned the points, although I did not learn anything new. It was difficult for me to keep a positive attitude about this class when I felt as if it was a waste of time. To the opposite effect, I earned a “C” in a child development course that I will always appreciate for what I learned. I struggled to maintain adequate scores on tests in this class, but the real life applications were undeniably valuable. I was able to gain first-hand experience with children and become comfortable using developmentally appropriate practice.

I consider myself a hard worker, someone who takes my education very seriously. It is important to me to earn good grades. However, I also value what I learn. I have come to believe that the letter grade is not as valuable as the knowledge that I come away with. It was a difficult journey to come to this belief. In high school as well the beginning of my college education, my focus was on the grades I received. I felt that I embarrassed myself and disappointed others if I did not earn high grades. Although I was a hard working student, my motives were not in the right place. Now, I understand that grades do not always reflect my growth and experience. I believe it is important to do my best for the benefit of learning. It has made a profound difference in my education.