The purpose of this project was to help preservice teachers make connections between learning theory and teaching practices.

To that end, seventeen preservice teachers interviewed seasoned teachers and discussed concepts/skills that were presented in class.

**Method**

1. Writing the Interview Questions
2. Making Meaning-Classroom Discussions
3. Revising the Interview Questions
4. Conducting the Interviews
5. Reflections

**Preservice Teachers’ Reflections**

"Opened my mind about the realities of teaching and the challenges that teachers and their students go through."

"I was able to see similarities between one of our class assignments and a chapter taught by the interviewee."

"It was an opportunity to connect the dots from class to actual learning."

"It made what we learned in this class more real."

**Postinterview Discussion Questions-Analysis**

- Questions about instructional strategies: 47%
- Questions about the challenges: 30%
- Advice for preservice teachers: 13%
- Other: 10%

**What Preservice Teachers Learn from the In-service Teachers that we did not Discuss in Class**

- Challenges in writing: 31%
- Challenges in reading comprehension: 42%
- Challenges in Learning Vocabulary: 27%

**Topics Preservice Teachers Thought were Discussed in this Course but were not Utilized by the In-service Teachers**

- Technology, word-analysis strategies, diversity

**Practices that we Discussed in Class that were Utilized by the In-service Teachers**

- Graphic organizers
- Transition-of-responsibility teaching new concepts

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