Jordan Hale

# Teaching Statement

It was tenth grade. That was a big year for me. My mom bought me some new Nirvana t-shirts, and I was about to get my license in the summer. It is also the year that I decided that I wanted to be a teacher. Two teachers that year are responsible for my decision: Mrs. Harris and Mr. Benz.

I specifically remember one incident in Mrs. Harris’s English class, I’m not even really sure what the lesson was on, where we had to discuss a book that we had been reading. Before we had arrived, she put all of the desk in a large circle. We [the students] walk in to a changed environment, adding mystery and uneasiness to our lives. And then to top it all, she said nothing. Mrs. Harris gave no instruction. And after minutes of utter chaos and fear, we [only the students] began to discuss the book. Unfiltered, student led, discussion.

And as for Mr. Benz, he simply cared. Deeply.

And that is what I want for my students and our classroom. I want to build a community based on mystery and exploration. I want to challenge my students with new thoughts and high expectations. And I want to genuinely care my students, and I want them to know that I care, deeply. Sometimes I think that my “hello” to a student in the hallway, may be the one time that student is shown positive attention in his or her entire day, and selfishly that makes me feel good.

With my teaching I want to achieve success. Success for the student when she or he leaves my classroom, and beyond. I want to prepare a student for the future, whatever that will be like. I what to guide students in not only becoming more literate but in also becoming more technologically literate; I want my students to possess the critical thinking, communication, and collaboration skills that they will need to pursue any field that they desire.