

**Nicole Mumford**  
**Artifact Reflection**

**Title of Artifact:** Camp Kupugani Letter

**Date Completed:** July 2008 and July 2009

**Artifact Description:** For my artifact I chose a letter from the Camp Kupugani Camp Director and Owner that details the responsibilities I had as a camp counselor and staff member in July of 2008 and 2009. During the session the girls and counselors learn about diversity, empowering oneself, and general life skills, in an educational, multicultural camp setting. As a Camp Kupugani Counselor, my responsibilities were not only to ensure the safety and well being of my campers, but I was also responsible for keeping contact with each of my individual camper's parents. I feel that this experience was very important in relating to my campers and their families. Also, I believe it was very beneficial in maintaining respect and trust between our camp counselors and the camper's families.

**Alignment:**

**Wisconsin Teacher Standard:** I believe that this artifact best aligns with WSTDKL Standard ten that states, **teachers are connected other with teachers and the community.** *The teacher fosters relationships with school colleagues, parents, and agencies in the larger community to support pupil learning and well-being and acts with integrity, fairness and in an ethical manner.*

As a camp counselor for Camp Kupugani I was very involved in not only the daily lives of all my campers but also, with their parents. Once a day we were to write a short update on each of the girls in our cabin, so their parents could be updated on their progress at camp. At the end of the camp session we met with parents and discussed their child's personal development during their time at camp. As a counselor I was responsible for a lot in the area of personal development of children, as well as interacting with parents on a daily basis. I had to present myself in a very professional manner and had to answer many questions. This is very similar to the responsibilities a teacher has when interacting with the parents of their students. It is important that teachers know about each student's development on a personal level and know how to relay those to the parents of their students.

**UW-Platteville School of Education Knowledge, Skill, and Disposition Statement**

**Alignment:** I believe this artifact best aligns with KSD4.c **Communicates with families.** KSD4.c states that *the teacher candidate is able to provide frequent, sensitive, and appropriate information to parents and students about student's positive and negative progress within the instructional program and successfully engages families in the educational process when appropriate.*

I believe this artifact aligns with this

**Personal Reflection:**

*What I learned about teaching:*

From this experience I learned that like WSTDKL ten states, it is very important to create a relationship with not only the people you work with, but with parents and the community as well. Working with these children at camp is a large responsibility for all camp staff and counselors. I learned that in order to be efficient in teaching and learning about my campers or future students I must be able to communicate with parents and be responsible in the eyes of the community. At camp, we as counselors, met with each child's parents before and after each session. In these short meetings we learned of the personal needs of each child and in the end we assessed how things went meeting these needs. I had a camper that had created a lot of tension and problems in our cabin, at the end of the session I had to confront and discuss this issue with her mother. I learned here that it is very important to always speak positively and ask a lot of questions, to better understand the child. Through this meeting I was able to better understand ways of countering this specific child's behavior in order to make adjustments for the next session. This was a way to communicate with the parents. The knowledge I gained from this experience will help me in building such relationships in my school, community and with the parents of my students. I have learned the importance of documenting each camper's, or student's, achievements in a way that the parents would appreciate being informed of. This knowledge base of appropriate ways of contacting and communicating with parents will greatly benefit me as a future educator.

*What I learned about myself:*

From this experience I learned that as a future educator I must take into large consideration the concerns others have about the environment and methods I use. Parents and community members will always be concerned about what a child is or is not learning in the classroom or in other educational programs. I, as an educator, must be prepared to facilitate learning in my classroom, as well as prepared to have ready assessments, reports and letters to the parents and the community to inform them of the progress and experiences their children are gaining in my classroom. Also, through this experience, I learned that patience is a very valuable asset to acquire when working with children and their families, as well as the community. You have to be patient while informing parents of their child's progress and experiences, as they may have many questions, comments, or concerns. Learning how to be calm, patient, and responsive to all parents is something that will always be necessary in my classroom.