

To Whom It May Concern,

3 April 2013

I am writing with regard to the teaching opportunity you have available for the upcoming academic year. Throughout my three years of traveling and teaching internationally, I have developed a keen interest in other countries' cultures and people and I have realized how much I love working with students from diverse backgrounds. Educating them has shown me that cultural experiences have a role in their learning process. Moreover, I believe that being a culturally sensitive teacher is an essential part of learning as well as teaching.

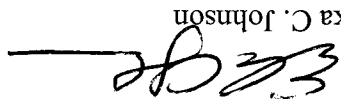
My first experience as a teacher was on the south side of Chicago in a low-income school where over ninety-five percent of the students were African American. During this yearlong internship, I realized that even though I was working in a school in the United States, there was still a great deal of diversity among the students. I started to become more culturally aware during this time, clearly realizing that the demographics of school and community play an important role that significantly influences my teaching. I decided to move to Honduras in 2010 where I taught for two years. Although my students did not face the same economic difficulties as those in Chicago, they faced challenges of their own. Even though they were all English language learners who were fully immersed in an American curriculum, I pushed them and myself to a new level. I incorporated technology into my classroom on a daily basis using an interactive white board allowing my students to become fully engaged in the lessons I taught. I also used Skype to connect with authors and classrooms around the world, thereby giving my students an opportunity to reflect on, and discuss, their cultural differences.

At the moment, I am teaching English to French elementary school students in France. I am also a student, as I continue my French studies here. I remain conscious of how our cultural beliefs differ and how that influences my teaching, their learning, and my learning. Despite the fact that the students I have taught live in different countries, they have all learned the importance of being held accountable and to take responsibility for their education, which has encouraged them to thrive inside and outside of school. No matter where I teach, I am continually pushing my student's critical thinking skills. I encourage them to ask questions constantly. Additionally, I equip my students, to the best of my abilities, with the resources and tools I believe are needed to become life long learners. I hope my resume helps to gain a better understanding of my high personal standards, which I maintain for all students, and how my personal experiences assist in engaging and teaching all types of learners.

I believe that my teaching experiences abroad and in the United States have opened up a world of opportunities for me. I would be honored to be able to enrich the lives of your students while being a member of your school and district. My teaching experiences and philosophy will try to help all students to reach their educational goals.

I hope we will have the opportunity to meet and discuss the impact I can make with the students at your school. Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

  
Erika C. Johnson