

Clara Sanchez Sulca

WLC 300

Personal Statement

When I was a child, my parents always asked me "What do you want to be when you grow up? I always looked for role models, and my mother stepped up to be a very influential figure in my life. As an immigrant who came to the United States, I believe I have a unique perspective on social issues that allow me to make valuable contributions in each of my classes. My mother helped me a lot. Her belief that I could be successful in EE.UU. as a Spanish teacher changed my entire life. I want to be able to help other persons in learning the Spanish language with the same inspiration that I received for learning English. Later, I was inspired by my teachers, admiring the skills that they have in being able to encourage a whole class to want to achieve their potential. I discovered a passion for teaching Spanish, a subject I now see many students struggle to become interested in.

As the first person in my family to have the opportunity to attend university, I value every moment in the university because I know education opens an endless array of doors. I lived half of my life in my country, Peru, where the official language is Spanish. For me, it was a very exciting moment when I decided that my future laid would be within education. I finished my studies at MPC and transferred to CSUMB to the Spanish Language and Hispanic Cultures program where I can achieve my goal and expand my knowledge about the Spanish spoken in Latin American countries.

College Spanish teachers must be proficient in speaking and reading English and Spanish for assisting students in language acquisition. They must be versatile and patient and have strong instructional, organizational, and communication skills, and develop the capacity to think critically. I have the power to be native in Spanish, and experience of being a tutor at college for four years. For example, my experiences working as a tutor and volunteering in ESL for MPC's students at the Language Program have inspired and motivated me to pursue a teaching career at the college level. I would enjoy the achievement of encouraging students to appreciate Spanish as it is necessary for us all in so many ways since we live in EE.UU. After I finish my studies at CSUMB I can teach Spanish at any level but I prefer college level. I love to teach to my students to think critically about the importance to learn a foreign language as Spanish because as Birmingham says. "Global companies look at people who have global skills," "And the ability to speak other languages, especially Spanish, is a global skill." Spanish-speaking ability is also important in the US.

While volunteering as a teaching assistant I saw the skills needed to be a great teacher one of which is leadership. My own leadership skills have developed over the years as a tutor and student, from attending a Latin club to gradually going on to lead small groups in activities. This has given me the confidence to volunteer as a teaching assistant in E S L and in Spanish language during my Associates. I learned the importance of educate and engage students with special needs and the power of strategies getting friendly competitiveness in learners. I saw students develop better within the classroom as a result of the teacher's support and those good

working relationships began to result in higher grades. Now, I have fortunate to participate in and observe lessons of Mr. Borja at MPC and have been inspired by the ethos of teaching Spanish as a heritage language. I aim to utilize my existing transferable skills, while developing new skills and partaking more fully in the students' education. It has been interesting to learn about the classroom and teaching approach. I have enjoyed gaining experience of teaching a class, working out which teaching style will be the most effective with each class at the time. I hope to observe more strategies to reflect on and try out in the future.

A good teacher needs a good deal of fluency, good pronunciation and accuracy to do well. A teacher lacking this skill will be hampered. Good language teachers improve their skills and keep their language fresh by listening and reading to as much target language as possible. As a student in the Spanish program at MPC, I learned that foreign language teachers aid students in learning a foreign language from the conversational level through fluency. I have gotten an Associate in Spanish language and I am a native Spanish speaker so I will be successful because a teacher of foreign language must be fluent in the language to be taught, and I have a proficiency in reading, writing, speaking and understanding the Spanish language. With these skills, I can create an environment for students to learn effectively. In addition to language skills, I have others; for example, initiative, practical experience, creativity, time management, listening skills and leading or working in a team. When students have to do their oral presentation I give them ideas of how to make a better understanding for those who are listening and also they can wear clothes to represent the character they are talking about. With all this, I hope to finish my education journey here at CSUMB and then be a great student representative of the School of World Languages and Cultures.