

# **Reflection Essay: Knowing What I Know Now**

**By Andrew Blain**

Much has changed since applying to Michigan State University in the fall of 2010 both personally and professionally. I have now been married for 4 years and have a beautiful daughter who has changed my perspectives on teaching. Professionally, my goals have altered from their original intent, especially when it comes down to teaching, coaching, and leadership qualities. My original goals focused on reaching all students regardless of color, creed, race, religion, and disability. Although those goals still ring true, I have adopted a vigorous approach to quality instruction in the classroom to ensure that rich education takes place in each student's life. Through the use of technology, motivational skills, and collaborative strategies with other teachers, I am confident that quality education can be received by every student who enters my classroom and works hard.

Coaching is yet another area in which my goals have changed. Before entering the program at MSU, I was more focused on the physical tools and techniques that went into coaching an athlete to be their best. Through the classes in Kinesiology, I have learned about the many strategies, methods, and psychological aspects of coaching high school athletes. My focus has shifted to supporting the athlete in academics and physical skills, as well as mentally and emotionally.

Overall, my passion to teach and coach has stayed the same, but has a new sense of vigor. The goal to do the best I can with the time I have with a student, athlete, or person is the main focus that I have now. Influencing that person to make positive, safe, and committed choices is something that I will continue to strive for as long as I have my passion for teaching and coaching. The courses in the Master's of Education program at Michigan State University have challenged me to think in creative ways to make sure the whole student or athlete can be successful in whatever they choose to pursue for their future.