Our class was posed the question, “What are the positive and negative aspects of teaching?” We had many different ideas, but came to a common theme. Like the pieces of a puzzle, it is all connected...the good and the bad, the yin and the yang. You can’t have one without the other.

**The Real World of Teaching**

*(What professors and books don’t tell you)*

According to EDML 5001, Dr. Wink, Fall ’04

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**Working With Youngsters**
- When the “light” finally goes on
- Defending the underdog
- Expanding minds
- Loving students
- Creating a safe haven for students
- Making real connections
- Being a positive example for a student
- Being living proof that learning is a fun, life long process
- Students become your family

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**Emotional Overload**
- Brain overload
- Not stable: kids, classes, and politics
- Need for self examination/criticism
- Need for “staying power” to get through today, this week, this year
- Need ability to think
- Tomorrow is another day
- Feeling failure when you don’t reach a student

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**Work Load**
- Lots of boring time spent grading papers/paperwork
- Spending lots of extra time doing work at home
- Spending your own money to buy what you need
- Your first year can be overwhelming

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**Professional Fulfillment**
- Learning something well enough to teach it
- Earning your pay with the work you do
- Working at an occupation that is for the greater good, not just to make money
- Working with supportive parents who want what’s good for their children

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**Emotional Fulfillment**
- Impacting someone’s life
- Feeling alive
- Having a “nice” feeling
- When you receive a note from a student
- When past students become teachers
- The small things, like a smile

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**Reality Check**
- You teach in the real world, not an ideal world
- Realizing that you can’t save everyone
- Students who have the ability, but do not take advantage of it
- Being unable to overcome/affect/change

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**Politics and Administration**
- Dealing with the politics and government in education
- Criticism from the public/ those outside education
- Pressure from principals
- Probation versus tenure
- Working with difficult parents
- The ever-swinging pendulum

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**Vacation**
- Summer vacation, winter and spring break
- Being able to travel
- Minimum Days

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**Collegial Rapport**
- Camaraderie with teachers
- Off-campus lunches with colleagues
- Supportive administrators

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Made by Gina Grgich, Nov. ’04