

Ella Rae Fontaine

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EDUCATION

CLARK UNIVERSITY - COMMUNITY YOUTH AND EDUCATIONAL STUDIES

MAJOR

In this program, I have examined how school and community programs can transform the current inequities by engaging young people and their families, and helping to change their our reality through educational spaces.

2022-2025

CLARK UNIVERSITY - INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT & SOCIAL CHANGE

MINOR

With this minor, I have gained a global perspective, with a focus on Southern Africa specifically to understand complex social-ecological challenges, and act effectively in uncertain and unstable contexts.

2022-2025

CLARK UNIVERSITY - MASTERS IN TEACHING

MASTERS

This will provide me with an exceptional hands-on learning experience of observing and teaching for a full year, and a course load that will immerse me in the community and school system as I learn about the philosophy of education and the unique challenges of teaching in an urban setting.

2024-2026

PROJECTS AND RESEARCH

COMPLEXITIES OF COMPLIMENTS, 2022 (RESEARCH)

I designed and executed an original research project on the impact of effort-based compliments on fostering growth mindsets in 8th-grade math students with my literature review incorporating key theories by Carol Dweck and Robin Alexander. I developed and implemented observational protocols, qualitative field notes, and student surveys, then analyzed classroom interactions and survey data to assess the correlation between effort-based praise and mindset development. Finally, I presented the findings in my research paper.

EFFECTS OF RACIALLY AND CULTURALLY REPRESENTATIVE BOOKS (RESEARCH)

I conducted an 18-month senior thesis that asked the question, how does fostering critical literacy using racially representative books boost critical consciousness and literacy skills? I spent 60 hours doing classroom observations in a local 6th grade, conducting interviews and field notes. Using Paulo Freire's theories from the Pedagogy of the Oppressed I ran a focus group where we discussed the nuance of race, the dominance of white culture, and many other topics while I assessed their literacy skills. This led me to a deeper understanding of how students are making sense of the world when presented with racially representative books.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

YMCA: AFTER SCHOOL EDUCATOR, SUMMER CAMP COUNSELOR

Worcester, MA

I am a trusted employee who works daily with kindergarten to ensure safety, comfort, and positive attitudes. I run an hour of art-based activities every day, teach literacy classes, and assist on field trips.

2023-2025

GREATER PORTLAND SCHOOL OF JUKADO, INSTRUCTOR

Westbrook, ME

I worked as a martial arts instructor, focusing on discipline and technique. I coached and ran the competing demo team, while mastering my own skills.

2018-2022