First Example:

**Field Experience Rationale Statement**

I have gained rich and purposeful field experiences throughout all my graduate courses. Some of these experiences were officially documented and others were not, but they all helped shape the teacher I am today. Each class in the VCSU graduate program has given me valuable knowledge on how to be an exemplary teacher. I have implemented many new ideas I learned from my experiences, from new tips on classroom management to how formative assessment is used. These experiences have made me a master teacher. Along with this, I chose my field experience from EDUC 650: Field Design and Implementation to meet Proposition 2, “Teachers know the subjects they teach and how to teach those subjects to students” and Proposition 4, “Teachers think systematically about their practice and learn from experience.”

I chose this artifact to meet Propositions 2 and 4 because experience is the best teacher and I learned the most when I taught a 21st century unit in my classroom. I created and implemented a Project-Based Learning (PBL) unit on weather with my first grade students. Students worked individually and in small groups as I acted as the facilitator to their learning. They prepared daily weather forecasts, documented their weather observations in science journals, and shared their findings with another first grade class via email. VCSU’s Core Values of Expertise in Curriculum/Instruction is exemplified in my artifact. I explored new approaches to delivering instruction, differentiated learning, and different formative and summative assessments. Because of this experience, my students learned how to take charge of their own learning. They also developed critical thinking and problem solving skills that tie directly to 21st century forward thinkers.

Throughout this experience, I learned how to create and implement a standards-based PBL unit. Implementation is the best way to learn, as creating the unit means nothing if it is not taught effectively. This is where most of my learning occurred. I not only created a unit, but I was challenged to put it into action and change my way of teaching. I had to act as the facilitator and use more open-ended and problem-based instructional techniques. I was also constantly reflecting on my teaching and changing things as needed.

In the future, I will continue to use PBL and STEM-related instruction in my classroom when appropriate. I will also continue to learn from my experiences both in and out of the classroom. I will strive to challenge myself and embrace new ideas and be a reflective and honest teacher. Each year I feel myself getting more confident in my abilities and more knowledgeable about delivering quality instruction. I will continue to use my experiences from my graduate studies to achieve growth and improvement.