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Dr. Perry

I grew up in Islip, New York. I went through the k-12 program in the Islip School District. I enjoyed my time in the school district and this helped determine where I wanted to teach if I became a teacher. I was very involved while attending high school. Specifically, played three sports year, peer tutor, student government, and well respected and like by students and teacher.

One of my teachers, Mr. Franz, was such an influence to all the students, especially me, and because of his influence I wanted to become a teacher. Mr. Franz showed me that there is more to teaching than just teaching out of the textbook. He was extraordinary and looked outside of the box. He brought out their strengths as individual, gave the students a chance, and taught to the students; both cognitive and visual. He would offer extra help every day until 4:00 PM even though he was contracted by the district to stay until 2:45 PM.

I went to Saint Joseph's College for my Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. I interned at Madison Square Garden working with the Human Resource Department. I did very well at the internship and was offered a job. I

declined the job even thou I enjoyed the job and liked the experience. At the end of the internship, I realized I wanted to definitely be a teacher and not work on Wall Street in New York City.

I applied to Dowling College for my Master's Degree in Adolescence Education, concentration in Business. This allowed me to become a certified Business Teacher. Towards the end of my Master's Degree, I had to student teach and decided to go back where I graduated high school; Islip High School.

I was a student teacher at Islip High School. I taught grades nine through twelve; Business Law, Introduction to Business, Keyboard, and Sports Management. I am half completed half of student teaching requirements when I ran into a major issue at the school. My teacher, Mr. Eve, was always late first period. Being a student teacher, there is no union, you run by the rules of the school; the principal is the dictator.

He told me to make a copy of his key, and cover for him first period when was late. Mr. Eve was late almost every day. He was ready to retire and knew he was untouchable. I went up to True Value to make a copy of the key as he explained to me to do. True Value says to me, "We cannot copy the key. The key says right on it, 'please do

not duplicate this key.' So I said okay and headed back to school." I am heading back to the school, as I walk into the school, security comes up to me and told me to go see the Principal.

The Principal asks me why I was trying to make a copy of the key. I explain that I was given permission from the teacher, Mr. Eve. The teacher did not back me up, but agreed that he told me to do it. The principal was unhappy with me and expressed her frustration.

The final verdict was that I had to finish student teaching at another school. The Principle made an example out of me to other teachers, staff, and union members. Dr. L, found me another school to student teach at. It was the Connetquot School District and it went very well. I had a great experience at both schools and was very happy to be able to finish my student teaching without having to re-do it.

I was very pleased that I was not black listed from teaching in New York. Also, I was very relieved to be able to finish my student teaching and not get dropped from the Dowling program. I felt that my cooperating teacher should of stood up for me and not throw me under the bus. I tried speaking to him off the record and he simply said, "I am about to retire and not putting my name on the line for

anyone at this time in my career." No matter what I said to him, he was set on his decision and nothing was going to change that. It was that day that I almost gave up on teaching, but stuck it through and worked hard to get where I am today.