**Critical Testimonial – Week 4**

I go to Our Lady of the Rosary School located in Union City where classes from kindergarten to 8th grade are hosted. Since I do not visit my site during regular hours, I do not have a full insight on the way teachers teach during regular school hours. My visit is during Wednesdays when they have a special program which focuses primarily on kids activities, it includes helping their homework of interest and provides them with a lot of free time so that they can enjoy playing with their peers. The school campus is located within the premises of a church and in every single classroom we can encounter at least one crucifix and one sacred text. Even though preaching and other religious practices are not directly imposed on the student, one can easily expect their influence in the classroom. Major values they promote are respect and discipline. All students are required to respect not only their peers but also their environment. Discipline in this institution is not only limited to in-school environment, the discipline practices used are very common and, therefore, have the ability to span children’s entire life. One simple yet great example of this is taking out trash; even tough adults are fully capable of doing this, class trash is usually taken out by a student, this can easily have an impact on student’s life since he/she wouldn’t hesitate to do the same routine in their house.

Literacies promoted and rewarded in this particular school are comparable to that of another school. Students are expected to do well in their academic discourses and, therefore, programs to help students with their homework are in place. Students, however, are not hindered by the teacher to develop their own literacies. I have found students playing with a toy that is designed with a cross like wood and has a painted ball attached to it with a string. The ultimate goal of this game is to let the ball travel through all four corners without touching the ball. This particular device is used by many students and surprisingly is not a prohibited item unless it causes huge distractions. A student who excels in this device is seen as a literate person within the student community of the school.

Teacher and students in this school share a friendly relationship, students usually bother the teachers as if they are one of their own and this interaction is very pleasing to watch. I believe this school is very progressive by this aspect alone. The relationship between students and administrators is very similar. When students are left to play on their own I notice large groups that would rather hang around teacher and administrators than play with their peers. One thing to consider, however, is that they are constantly moving and this same group actively participates in other physical activities as well.

I believe that the students are very self-conscious when I’m around them. The reason for this behaviors was recently brought to my attention when one of the teachers told me that her students are concerned about me writing. When I write my field note, she told, some of their students believe that I’m taking notes on their behavior and might report it. After gaining this insight, I have decided to stop taking notes while on site interacting with the students. I also think that students might need a little more time to be comfortable, with me begin around them. Time could be the ultimate solution for this problem since I have seen some students initiating interactions with me with just my second visit.