Self-Critique

 One of my primary strengths as a teacher is my high level of organization. All of my materials are always organized in binders or folders for easy and quick access. This is beneficial because keeping things readily accessible makes for a more efficient class and keeps me prepared for the unexpected situations that inevitably arise. In addition to keeping materials ordered, I also maintain organization by planning, both for daily activities and broader, long-term goals. This is helpful not only in keeping things running smoothly, but also in keeping a class on course; it allows me to ensure that my daily activities are contributing to the broader goals that I have set for the students. It is always important to be able to justify to the students why I am asking them to perform the activities that I assign, and planning allows me to do this effectively.

 Another strength that I have as a teacher is my ability to develop a rapport with my students. I am extremely at ease in front of a group of students, and that comfort transmits to my students. This creates a comfortable class environment in which students are able to ask questions, voice concerns, and put forward their ideas. In my experience, students perform better when they are in a comfortable environment, and this is something I am able to create. In addition, developing a rapport with my students allows me to get to know them better. Because of this, I am able to tailor my class activities and goals to the needs of my individual students.

 One of my weaknesses as a teacher is that I sometimes have overly high expectations of my students. There are a great deal of skills that I want my students to develop and display, and these goals are not always reasonable. I have attempted to address this weakness by constantly reminding myself to consider the individual students, assessing what goals are practical for them. I want to push them to achieve the highest level of competency possible, but I don’t want to push them so far that they become discouraged, feeling that it is impossible for them. Finding that balance is a struggle that I continue to address.