

My Most Memorable Student



Twitter, a micro-blogging and social networking service, was created in 2006, and it became wildly popular by 2012 with more than 340 million “tweets” being posted each day. Initially messages were limited to 140 characters although that was raised to 280 for most languages. Either way, short!

Although there is no direct connection, Twitter inspired a project of MSLBD to gather educators’ short spontaneous videotaped descriptions of one of their “most memorable” students. Participants would do so in a very limited time frame of less than 5 minutes. Thus, the project was identified as “Teacher Tweet – Tell Us Your Story!”

It was hoped that the project would provide descriptions of a wide variety of students served by those educators serving students with difficult behavioral and mental health needs, and how those educators responded in the immediate situation with that student.



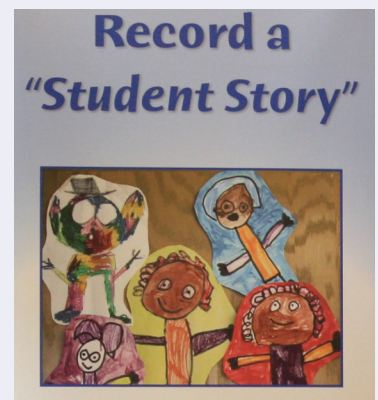
And finally, teachers would also reflect on how that student may have affected that educator’s career.

Three questions were developed to focus the participants responses:

- Who was your most memorable student?
- What did you learn from them?
- What impact did the student have on your career?

These short videos were to be extemporaneous without any advance thought or planning. The participants were asked to answer the three questions within 3-5 minutes.

Much like a photo booth at weddings or



other events, participants could quickly sit down, and complete the video recording their responses to the three questions.

These "teacher tweets" were primarily recorded during the 2011-2013 Symposium and Leader's Conferences. Signage and announcements invited participants in those conferences to record their story before and during breaks in the meetings. All participants were volunteers. Making it possible to recruit participants without taking much of their time or requiring forethought or planning. Additionally, more stories were recorded during JANUS Project video interviews at other times.

Eighty of these short videos are available on the MSLBD website. More may be added in association with JANUS Project interviews in the future.

Respondances ranged from some first year special education teachers to highly experienced teachers, administrators and consultants, as well as University teacher trainers and researchers. Examples of the people providing stories are listed here representing only about about 60% of the total number of stories.

View all of these stories at: <https://mslbd.org/what-we-do/educator-stories.html>.

