I. Introduction: I have always loved working with kids. When I was little, I took very good care of my dolls and treated them as if they were my own kids. I took a babysitting course when I was thirteen and have been babysitting off and on ever since. I’ve worked at an after-school program and have been a nanny several times. At family functions, I’m always the one to take charge and watch the little ones. Working with kids has inspired me to start a career in the education field. Thesis: Today, I will be discussing the process of becoming an elementary school teacher. Mapping: First, I will discuss the educational requirements, second, the compensation and finally, the job outlook and rewards that come with it.

II. Body

1. Educational Requirements

   A. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, all teachers have to be licensed in order to teach. This consists of taking a test on the basic knowledge of reading, writing and math.

   B. All teachers must acquire a bachelor’s degree. This requires training sessions, education credits and hands on experience in a classroom with supervision.

   C. Also, since an elementary schoolteacher teaches a variety of subjects, they are to take certain classes pertaining to those subjects. For example, math, science, English, etc.

   D. A lot of teachers may eventually pursue their master’s degree while they are teaching. Or they will take classes to keep up with the growing technology and learning so they can apply it to their lesson plans.

Transition: Education is a huge component of any career these days. In fact, it’s hard to find a job without some kind of education and/or training. The next question is, will I make enough money to support my family and myself?

2. Salary

   A. The U.S. department of Labor states that the average elementary school teacher in 2004 made around $41,000 to $45,000 a year.

   B. Teachers work long hours, grading papers, meeting with parents and preparing lessons. This can lead to overtime, therefore, an increase in pay.

   C. All teaching positions offer benefits. The book, “Careers in Teaching,” says that not only do they offer health insurance, retirement packages and vacation; teaching positions will sometimes offer other types of
benefits as well. For example, transportation, life insurance and school supplies.

**Transition:** Now that I know about what I’ll be making, my next step is to find out what the job market will typically be like.

3. Job Outlook

   A. According to the book “Careers in Teaching,” the average age of a teacher is about forty-four. This means that the need for teachers is at a high because most of them are now close to retirement.
   
   B. Many young teachers can’t take the stress dealing with kids and decide to quit within the first year or two of their career. Or, they simply cannot afford to live off their salaries.
   
   C. The need for teachers is continuing to grow. New schools are being built, new funding is on its way and salaries are increasing each year.

**Transition:** There are definitely benefits of becoming a teacher. The jobs are there and the rewards that come with it are even better.

4. Rewards

   A. Teachers work ten months out of the year from September to June. That means during summer, there’s time to spend with family or get a second job.
   
   B. Making a difference in a child’s life is what teachers are all about.

**Transition:** The rewards of becoming a teacher are endless. The stress can be too, but if you love what you do, it should all balance out.

III. Conclusion: I was always taught that education always comes first and is the most important tool in life. To me, it doesn’t matter how much I make or how long it takes to get where I want to be. It matters that I make a difference in someone’s life; that is the most rewarding feeling anyone can have, especially when it’s a child. The joy of watching a child learn new things is a gift a teacher receives every day and there’s nothing better than that.

**Bibliography:**


**Occupational Outlook Handbook:** 2006-2007 editions, Teachers—Preschool, Kindergarten, Elementary, Middle, and Secondary

http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos069.htm