



### **My NBCT Story**

Name: Jacquelyn Fabian

Area of Certification: AYA-English/Language Arts

District & School: CCSD 181 Hinsdale Middle School

Year of Certification: 2019

The start of the 2020-2021 school year is unlike anything most of us have ever experienced; however, it is even more daunting as I am starting at the middle school this year, which is a completely new setting for me! I will be teaching 6th and 8th grade Language Arts at Hinsdale Middle School in Hinsdale, Illinois. I completed my certification with a few amazing groups of students at Naperville North High School, where I co-taught English 1, senior English Literature, and junior English 3, where I spent five of my 12 years of teaching. This will be LUCKY 13, indeed!

I consistently strive to challenge myself within this profession, and I wanted an opportunity to truly reflect on my practices to determine how I can continue to grow. I particularly enjoyed completing a deep-dive of my differentiation practices because it caused me to slow down and deeply reflect on the choices I made for each student. I was also hoping NBC would open up more opportunities for me to write, lead professional development, and mentor teachers.

Certification has, in a way, forced me to be an even more reflective practitioner. The title of NBCT carries weight, and I want to make sure I always live up to this distinction. I am proud of the work I do within the classroom, and while I'm not perfect (and proudly so!), I strive to reach every student and make school a fun and engaging place to be.

Lastly, and probably the least discussed aspect of NBC, is the community that comes along with certification. Since December, I've participated in mentor training, connected with educators across the country, and attended several professional development opportunities (the NBCT annual conference is some of the BEST professional development I've ever experienced!). I've also met with other Illinois NBCTs to discuss policy and advocacy opportunities and have connected with National Board NAME, a National Board-affiliated organization for minoritized educators. The women I've met through NAME have been supportive and uplifting, especially as we all journey into this school year together.

When I began to pursue National Board Certification, I had no idea I would reap so much from this community. I highly encourage any and all educators to embark on this amazing journey!