After the allotted class time I was able to catch up with Dr. Thompson after class in his office. He was kind enough to afford me about 30 minutes of his time. I apologized to him for not catching him in the classroom and we discussed at length how my schooling has been going. Dr. Thompson was able to review his notes from class with me and together we covered the material in class. He was able to stress to me the important points of the presentation and what he hoped the class took away from the experience. Dr. Thompson was able to make it a more personal, interactive question-and-answer time with me and asked me to relate personal experiences from my practicum time to particular situations. He recalled the situation he gave in class of a struggling Title I school and the job of making lessons relevant to students. We spoke about the relevance of standardized testing and how I might tie in a non-core subject, like Computer Science, into the overall game plan of making students successful in the state tests. We spoke about how various teaching methods might be applied to engage students that may have a hard time in school and which methods would be more advantageous than others.

I’ve worked with Dr. Thompson before in the past with various campus projects and loved whenever we were able to meet. I think he has a lot to offer to those with an open ear. I think he can really bring a lot of ideas to light and can assist with differing viewpoints on various topics. I don’t think the “mock interview” scenario was perhaps the best vehicle for hearing Dr. Thompson’s ideas. In fact, after speaking with several students afterwards, I gathered an overall frustrated feeling from them regarding the experience due to the large group setting. I think a better plan would be to schedule these mock interviews in a smaller group, or if possible a one-on-one. I feel that my experience was more beneficial to me because I was able to discuss these points in length with him rather than in a larger group.

Overall I feel that *my* time with him was a positive experience and found it directly and personally relevant to my career goals. As I said before, I love talking with Ray about a wide range of subjects, this being no exception.

In the future, I feel that a more beneficial setting might be to have Dr. Thompson come to class and share his experiences and thoughts. Perhaps a “Inside the Actor’s Studio”-interview type approach where you can pick his brain in front of the class. I think that Dr. Thompson and many LeTourneau staff and faculty (Dr. Steve Armstrong, Marila Palmer, Lois Knouse, Dr. Stan Coppinger) would be an asset to future classes.