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| **Personal Statement:**My name is Rachel Anderson and I did not always want to be a teacher. As a child I wanted to be a veterinarian, that is until I understood the operating part of the job description. Once discovering I was too squeamish to be a vet, it was difficult to decide what path I should take. After attending Piedmont Virginia Community College and obtaining my associate degree I found that my favorite classes were the sciences. Thanks to the passionate and engaging teachers there I decided to follow my new passion for science and pursue a bachelor’s degree in biology. These teachers inspired me, and I want to do the same for other students. In my experience as a tutor, I was able to work closely with students and see their progress, understanding of the material, and most importantly their curiosity about science. That curiosity is vital for understanding our world and I believe that scientific knowledge and skills are important for students inside and outside the classroom. In the biology bachelor’s degree program with a secondary education concentration I have worked within groups to plan, design, and teach a science lesson to Cumberland High school students. The lesson we taught on taxonomy brought the dusty atmosphere of the classroom with nature by using preserved specimens of various animals. I want to be a teacher who can bring the outdoors into my lessons and get students thinking about how the science in their textbooks connects with the world around them. I have also worked as a librarian assistant where I gained skills like collaboration, organization, researching, and student support. It is my goal to become the kind of teacher who can motivate students to take an interest in science and gain useful skills like critical thinking, researching, and organization. It’s my aspiration to encourage students to pursue science in future careers just like my teacher’s inspired me.  |