**CLASSROOM OBSERVATION**

Classroom observations are built into this course to build a foundation for reflection on your assigned reading, class activities, and our class discussions.

**Your objective:** Observe one class period in an elementary school (ages 7-10).

During that time, take extensive notes detailing the teacher and students' behaviors, teacher talk, student talk, variety type of activities/techniques, interactions, physical activity, sensory input, etc. You should prepare a checklist to help you.

**PAY ATTENTION TO:**

**External Factors:**How many interruptions during the class period? For what? By whom? How much instructional time becomes "non-instructional" time? How does the teacher deal with these unasked for interruptions?

**Discipline"**What things does the teacher say or do to establish the "tone" of the classroom? What factors contribute to making the classroom an effective learning environment? If an "event" occurs -- how did it develop? What did the student(s) do? What did the teacher do? Not do?

**Use of Chalkboard/Overhead Projector:**Legible? Visible? Make sense? What might have been done differently? (take a picture at the end of the lesson)

**Handouts, Test, etc.**How helpful are they? How do they contribute to learning? Legible? Understandable? (get copies for possible future analysis)

**Use of the Textbook:**Does it "dominate" what happens in class? How is it used? For what purposes? How often? How helpful is it? Do students appear to like it?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Intellectual Development | | | | |
|  | yes | no | some | N/A |
| Use of metalanguage |  |  |  |  |
| Rules stated in abstract terms |  |  |  |  |
| Repetition of Grammar patterns (meaningful and relevant) |  |  |  |  |

**To complete your project, be sure to do the following:**

1. Before observing a class in the elementary school, be sure to get permission from both the teacher and principal. Request the name of the principal for the letter of permission. Also, obtain from the teacher a brief description of what the class will be doing along with the educational goals for the day you're observing. (If you are given an oral description, write it down).

2. On the day of the observation: Arrive a few minutes early and sit in the back silently (do not talk to the students). Have paper and pen or pencil to take notes and the checklist. chart. First, I suggest you spend a few minutes to "take in" the physical environment. You should be taking notes during the entire class, starting from the time you enter. Be as descriptive and specific as possible. \*The more detailed your notes are, the more they will help you make connections.

**Prepare a written report include: presentation page, Name of the school, grade, age (students and teacher), gender (students and teacher), day/date/time/ of the observation, sitting arrangement (draw a map of the classroom), language focus, the teacher´s lesson plan based on what you observed, and your perceptions of whether the teacher was able to teach the children effectively based on the factors to be considered when teaching children suggested by H. Douglas Brown.**

**Prepare an oral report to share your perceptions.**