

Form C: Peer Evaluation Classroom Observation

Teacher: Allen Barksdale

Observer: Devin Allen

Date: October 2015

Subject matter: History

Start time:

End time:

Lesson Plan Description:

Reviewing reading from The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin

Time	Comments:
	<p>Class begun with an oral quiz on the first reading assignment from the Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin.</p> <p>After the quiz, Dr. Barksdale reviewed the correct answers with students providing explanation to each answer and some background information about the answers.</p> <p>The class finished with a part lecture, part discussion about the first part of the book. Dr. Barksdale was careful to point out historical information that provided insight into the reading, gave it more of a context, so to speak. He also pointed out some jokes that Benjamin Franklin was making in the text that would have been lost on the casual reader.</p> <p>Class ended with explanation of what would be happening in the weeks to come.</p>

Observation Summary

What's the hook? What is the essential question? What skills are being taught? Are students focused on the task? Do they know what they are expected to do? How are the students demonstrating learning or engagement? Is thinking visible and / or audible? Who is doing most of the talking? Is technology being used as a tool for engagement? Are students given time to think and share? Is student work posted or made visible? Is there evidence of time management?

The class I attended was for the most part a very traditional type of class. There was assigned reading and a very short quiz was given regarding the reading. It was obvious that the quiz did not count much in the way of points but was designed as a method for ensuring the students completed the work, and served to highlight salient points in the text that either provided context to the environment Benjamin Franklin was a part of and/or his upbringing. The students were very comfortable in the classroom, which is a product of the exciting environment and an entertaining teacher.

Learning Space and Culture Summary

Is there evidence of students' thinking? Can you tell what they have been working on? Is the space appropriate for the # of students and the type of activity? Are there examples where the space is maximized for learning or not? Does the space facilitate collaboration? Does it feel like the learning space belongs to the students or the teacher? Does the class culture empower students to collaborate? Are students respectful and divergent? Do they feel confident about expressing their opinions or sharing their answers? Is student behavior managed appropriately? How were assessments used? Was there variation in activities? groupings?

One cannot go into Dr. Barksdale's classroom and not comment on the environment. The classroom itself is a museum of American history in miniature, floor to ceiling artifacts of the type that reveal the character of the individuals that make up the American experience. This space is exciting and encourages one to talk about the history of the United States. The reading assignments are posted on the white board as well as upcoming paper and test dates. The students are seated at small tables, two to four at each.

Overall Summary

Was there evidence of organization? Was there evidence of 4D learning? Were thinking routines used? Did the teacher demonstrate sound pedagogical skills? Did the teacher demonstrate solid content mastery? Is a growth-mindset evident? Did the teacher demonstrate appropriate differentiation/tiering where necessary? Is the focus on the process, not the product?

This unit is really about the kinds of personality traits that the United States idealizes. The chosen text could not be more appropriate. Dr. Barksdale doesn't come out and tell the students this, rather, he provides a combination of reading, quizzes, lectures, and discussion all rolled up into one class period. I know from speaking to him he also provides a variety of different experiences to aid in the students understanding.

Teacher signature and date

Observer signature and date