

OBSERVING TEACHING STRATEGIES

Purpose and Focus Of Observation

This observation exercise focuses on the specific teaching strategies and techniques that a teacher uses to help students understand a concept, learn a skill or learn about a topic. Preservice teachers should observe the strategies and techniques that the teacher uses with the class as a whole as well as observe teaching strategies or techniques that the teacher uses with individuals or small groups. In this exercise, record as much as you can what the teacher is saying as well as what he/she is doing.

Directions for Observations Of Teaching Strategies/Techniques

1. Negotiate a time for observation.
2. The preservice teacher will make written observation notes of the lesson, noting the teacher’s actions and directions, and what the student is doing in response.
3. Preservice teacher and mentor teacher should discuss the observations.

Examples of Possible Teaching Strategies/Techniques (there are many more!!)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brainstorming • Concept map • Demonstration • Debates • Drawing • Discussion – whole of class, small group • Games • Guided practice • Independent practice • Inductive or deductive approach • Connecting with prior knowledge and with future goals. • Pair share activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview • Analogies • Questioning (many kinds of questioning) • Quiet think time • Reading • Role play • Scaffolding (many ways of doing this) • Small group work • Thinking skills strategies • Timelines • Use of resources
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Sample of observation notes:

Strategy/technique & apparent purpose	Teacher talk and action	Student response	Observer Queries, comments
Student asking Questions	<p>Teacher is explaining the difference between domestic animals and wild animals</p> <p>Teacher says “Interesting question.</p> <p>Why did you think about those animals in particular?</p>	Student asks “What about geckos? Or rabbits? Are they domestic animals?”	<p>Teacher did not fob student off. When student was invited to say more, he did!!</p> <p>Teacher took this opportunity to further explore definitions.</p> <p>Students became very interested in the discussion from this point on.</p> <p>But what happens to the lesson plan???</p>
1. Summary of discussion with Mentor Teacher (Preservice teacher to notate)			
2. Preservice teacher personal reflection.			

RECORDING SHEET FOR TEACHING STRATEGIES

Preservice Teacher Name			
Date:		Day of the week	
Context (Subject, after lunch):			
Start time of observation:		End time of observation:	
Strategy/technique & apparent purpose	Teacher talk and action	Student response	Observer Queries, comments
1. Summary of discussion with Mentor Teacher (Preservice teacher to notate)			
2. Preservice teacher personal reflection.			