

Module No. 2: Uncovering the Complexities of Teaching

During module one, you discovered that teachers play many roles in their classrooms. In striking contrast with popular misconceptions, you are just beginning to learn that teaching is a very complex occupation that has many subtle dimensions. The focus of this module is to help you discover the dimensions and complexities of teaching that experienced teachers often take for granted.

Objective

After observing a technology education class for two or more complete periods, students will be able to write a narrative that describes:

- * the classroom routine from the moment the students enter the room to the moment they leave.
- * the strategies that the teacher employed to facilitate instruction and manage the class.
- * the nature of the teachers dialog with students based on quantitative data.
- * at least one aspect of a teachers job that he or she will find easy; and at least one aspect of a teachers job that he or she will find very difficult.

Assignment

During your visit gather enough information to address the following questions. In addition to observing the teacher, be prepared to ask him or her a few well-planned questions to adequately write your responses. Your answers to these questions should be typed, approximately one paragraph long, and exemplify clear and concise communication.

1. What is the current classroom routine (e.g., announcements, attendance, teacher directed instruction, laboratory time, clean-up procedure)?

2. What strategies did the teacher used to: (address at least six)
 - a. gain the students' attention?
 - b. present key concepts?
 - c. acknowledge students' ideas and accomplishments?
 - d. reward achievements?
 - e. organize and manage learning activities?
 - f. disseminate instructional materials?
 - g. make transitions from one part of the lesson (discussion) to the next (laboratory)?
 - h. maintain classroom discipline?

3. Shadow the teacher for at least 15 minutes as he or she circulates through the classroom or laboratory. From a discrete distance, carefully listen to the teacher's dialog with his or her students. Record each time the teacher performs the following tasks. Summarize the results of your analysis in a brief paragraph.

Example: presenting content //
providing direction ///

- a. providing students directions
 - b. answering students questions
 - c. asking students questions
 - d. addressing student behavior
 - e. solving a technical problem
 - f. providing positive feedback
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4. Teachers perform a wide range of tasks during the course of a lesson. Some teachers have a natural ability to motivate students while other find generating enthusiasm extremely difficult. Other teachers are very creative in their teaching style but somewhat disorganized. Inversely, some teachers have very structured curricula and learning environments, but they are very dependant on others for new ideas. What aspect of a teacher's job do you think will be the easiest for you to perform? Furthermore, what aspect of a teacher's job do you think will be the most difficult for you to perform?

Evaluation

The instructor, using the objectives for this field experience module, will evaluate your narrative. The following scale will be used to rate the quality of your work. Typically a “rich” narrative requires 2-3 pages of discussion to provide the details and insightfulness found evident in the outstanding category.

Assignments judged to be unsatisfactory will need to be revised.

O for Outstanding The narrative is rich with details, very insightful, addresses the question and well written.	S for Satisfactory The narrative adequately addresses the question and is relatively easy to read.	U for Unsatisfactory The narrative presents an incomplete, vague, or rough response to the question.
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Student Name:

Question Number & Topic

	<u>Scale</u>		
1. Classroom routine	O <input type="checkbox"/>	S <input type="checkbox"/>	U <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Teaching and classroom management strategies	O <input type="checkbox"/>	S <input type="checkbox"/>	U <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Teacher/student dialog analysis	O <input type="checkbox"/>	S <input type="checkbox"/>	U <input type="checkbox"/>
4. Easy & difficult teaching tasks	O <input type="checkbox"/>	S <input type="checkbox"/>	U <input type="checkbox"/>

Score Earned: /10