

Reflection- Classroom Observation #2

Course: High School- Intro to Welding

Lesson: Tig Welding

John Berner

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In my opinion, my second observed lesson went well, but I wasn't as pleased with it as my first lesson. Lack of confidence in technical knowledge is largely the result of having had no prior experience in the welding field. I felt confident in outlining my references, but it was hard to be able to answer questions with little hands on experience. Lack of personal knowledge was the result of not having much interaction with the class as I had taken the role of a student myself and did little teaching of the topics. I am still glad that I had the opportunity to teach the lesson because it gave me the experience of teaching concepts that are new to me as well in front of a new group.

I believe I did well with the demonstration as the students were able to perform the procedures afterward. I think I did well in presenting material as if I were a technical college instructor, but with the education level of my students, they should be introduced to basic concepts that they can understand and not clutter their minds with formulas that would confuse them.

Taking information from text books and internet resources was easy to put in a PowerPoint and made the material easier for me to teach, but I think it was harder for the students to understand. The concept of continuing to use PowerPoints didn't hit home until I applied for a teaching position and was asked whether I would teach using methods that were easier for me, or teach using methods that were easier for my students to learn. Of course, my answer would be to teach what is easiest for them to learn. Although I have had well presented PowerPoints, I have found that it isn't always the best method.

My supervising instructor suggested that I break up the class by alternating lecture and demonstrations. With the lab being quite a distance from the classroom, I don't know if I would keep going back and forth; but if I were to do the lesson over, I would eliminate the PowerPoint lecture and spend the time in the shop explaining the processes and procedures where they have visual references. It was also suggested that I drive the relevance of the lesson. I had assumed that the previous lessons of arc welding and wire feed welding was enough relevance, but if I had analyzed the learning process better, I should have done some comparisons that encourage students to decide what the best method of welding would be.

This lesson was a good exercise to see how I would handle being out of my element. I pulled the lesson off, but I definitely need to make adjustments in the future to be more effective.