

Formal Teacher Observations: Student Teaching Video

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Format of Evaluation Tool

I teach in Kershaw County School District, located in South Carolina. Statewide, all schools use the South Carolina Teaching Standards (SCTS) 4.0 Rubric to evaluate teachers (SCDE, 2018). The rubric is divided into four domains: Instruction, Environment, Planning, and Professionalism. Each of the domains are further detailed into several indicators, under which teachers receive a score of either Exemplary-4, Proficient-3, Needs Improvement-2, Unsatisfactory-1. Upon giving each indicator a score, a final overall rating is determined. Results of the observation are then shared via email and post-conference, as well as uploaded to the state department website for individual teacher and administrator access.

Explanation of Video and Why

I chose this video because the students seemed to be around the same age as students that I teach (2nd grade), so I was curious to see the teaching strategies that would be used. Due to the video being an extremely brief snippet of his class, I was only able to collect some evidence to support only the first page of the Instruction domain. The evidence relates to the following indicators: *Standards and Objectives*, *Motivating Students*, and *Presenting Instructional Content*. In the nearly two-minute video, I observed an Mr. Perez, elementary teacher and Grand Canyon alum, begin a lesson with his students. In those moments, I observed him utilize the benefits of consistent repetition and modeling, as his students repeated affirmations and movements that demonstrated their understanding of the and expectation and objectives.

Score Explanation

After thoroughly reviewing the indicators, I would give Mr. Perez's observation an overall Exemplary-4 rating in the Instruction domain. The reasoning for this outstanding rating is due to the evidence collected for the indicators listed previously. Specific wording used within the rubric, such as *all*, *most*, and *some* make the difference in which rating an indicator receives. For Standards and Objectives, would rate it Exemplary, because the objectives were explicitly communicated. He also connected the objectives to life experiences and other disciplines, through movements and positive affirmations, a key distinction in the Exemplary column. For Motivating Students, he also gets an exemplary rating from me. From what I observed, he consistently organized content to be meaningful, engaging, and relevant. And lastly for Presenting Instructional Content, he always included visuals to support the lesson, explicit examples, modeling, and clear, concise communication. This results in another Exemplary rating.

Positive and Constructive Feedback with Evidence

Mr. Perez's classroom was one where the environment sets the stage for high expectations. He clearly demands the best from each student, and for the most part, they were all attentive and fully engaged in what learning is occurring. He began the lesson asking the class "Where is the most important place to be?" All students knew to respond "Right here, right now." He has notecards in his hands, and while I am not sure what they are for, that along with other materials readily available for use demonstrates his planning and preparedness. Content is obviously going to be connected to previously learned, as students were reciting the definition of adverbs. He has visuals on the board that he refers to, and is mobile around the room.

One thing I would have a suggestion for Mr. Perez is that during the “teach your partner” strategy, I noticed that not all students were able to do so. I would want to discuss more with Mr. Perez a game plan for those students- how will he assess content to determine mastery? I do not have access to a lesson plan nor the remainder of the video, so this answer may be given under those circumstances. So again, if I were able to view more of this lesson, there would have greater feedback for this teacher and the evidence to do so.

REFERENCES

GCU Academics. (2014, June 6). *I High Expectations*. [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KDwSkcp5T2c&feature=youtu.be>

South Carolina Department of Education. (2018). *South Carolina Teaching Standards 4.0 Rubric* [PDF file]. Retrieved from https://ed.sc.gov/scdoe/assets/File/educators/teacher-evaluations/SC%204_0%20Rubric%20Printable%20FINAL.pdf