

## Reflection Questions – Stephen Carter

### Section A

#### **1. Specify aspects of the teaching that should be maintained. What did you do well in today's class?**

Both my mentor and I agreed that overall, I did a good job delivering the content in a clear and concise fashion.

I began the class by asking them how their weekend was, which generated a short conversation that engaged the students, and created a relaxed environment for them to be ready to learn the new concept I was about to teach.

We agreed that the pacing and flow of the lesson worked well to keep the students interested. The PowerPoint presentation covered the material thoroughly without containing so much information that it would become overwhelming for the students. The C# application I chose to demonstrate the topic worked extremely well. It was something that we had worked on in the previous class, so it was familiar to the students and I was able to add new functionality to it that covered the new topic.

Following the presentation and demonstration, students were left with a good amount of time to work on the assigned activity. This afforded me the opportunity to check in on students' progress and respond to any questions that arose.

#### **2. What would you like to improve upon or do differently? Specify strategies that will be used to accomplish these changes, additions, or modifications.**

One piece of constructive criticism offered to me by my mentor was that I was sometimes not aware of my positioning at the front of the classroom during instruction. At times, this made it difficult for some students to see the smart board clearly. In the future, I am going to be more aware of the layout of the classroom and take some time at the beginning of class to ensure that I am setting up in a spot where I am not obstructing anyone's view. I was also facing the smartboard while speaking, giving the impression that I was speaking to it rather than the students. To prevent this, I am going to spend a few minutes before class reviewing any information I plan to display on the smart board in order to become more familiar with it.

Based on the questions I received from students following the presentation, it came to my attention that some students were confusing the current topic with something else. The topic was how to prevent a program from crashing and displaying a message to the user if an exception occurred in the application. Some students confused this with displaying a message to the user when the data they entered on a form was invalid. The next time I teach this topic, I will introduce it by explaining that we do not use it for form validation; rather it is used when something exceptional and unexpected occurs in our application.

## Section B

### **1. What did you learn new in regards to lesson planning? What would you like to do differently?**

The main thing I learned about lesson planning is that, although creating them can use up valuable time I could be spending generating content or marking, in the end they save me time. Last year was my first year teaching, and I did not create a single lesson plan throughout the year. This year, I have made a solid effort to create a documented plan for every class I teach. A benefit to this is that I feel more organized, and therefore more relaxed when I get into the class. In addition, after each class, I have spent a few minutes reflecting. I have been writing notes about what worked, and what did not. This will be of enormous benefit to me next year if I end up teaching the same course again.

### **2. How does this experience relate to course content (required materials in this unit or what was learned over the summer courses)?**

As mentioned above, last year was my first year teaching. During the Facilitating Learning course with Karla in July, I found myself relating the topics we were discussing during the lectures to how I did those particular things last year. I was happy to realize that I had been doing many of the right things already, but the information that she was providing us with allowed me to further enhance my methods. For example, the pacing and flow of a lesson – ice breaker, followed by a lecture, then by a learning activity – is something I have begun to implement in my classes. Planning this flow for each class and actually typing up a lesson plan has really made this year more enjoyable for me, and hopefully more beneficial for my students.