

Assignment #9: Discussion Lesson, Video, and Reflection

Description:

The goals of this assignment are twofold: first, I hope to give you an opportunity to experience leading a discussion with middle or high school students in your placement. Second, this assignment is designed to encourage reflection on one of the more difficult components of ELA teaching: leading discussions. At some point in the semester, you will need to find time in your placement to lead a discussion. The discussion can be short (15 or so minutes), but you will need to be in charge of facilitating it. You will write up the lesson plan for the day using our lesson plan template and you will write a reflection about one moment from the experience.

Requirements/Steps:

1. Set a date with your MT to lead a discussion sometime before the start of November. Don't let this slip off of your radar (that's why we're discussing it now!)
2. In cooperation with your MT, plan the lesson for the day. The lesson should include, at some point, a discussion of a concept or moment in a text. The discussion need not be long – it is hard to orchestrate a lengthy discussion with middle and high school students – but it should fit into your MT's unit/lesson/curriculum (in other words, try not to plan a completely isolated lesson – that will make it hard for you to write up the lesson plan!)
3. Bring a video camera to your placement on the day of your lesson enactment. **Make sure your MT has signed the release form in his/her folder before you do this and that informative forms have been sent home with students. These should have all been in your MT's initial folders – let me know if you need another copy.**
4. After your lesson, find some time to write about how it went. This will help you write your more formal reflection later.
5. Find a moment in the lesson – a short clip, maybe only a few seconds – where something significant happened (something went well, something went wrong, something happened that raised a question for you). Reflect on that moment in a reflection that places the moment in the context of the larger discussion. What would you change/reconsider/re-evaluate/do differently as a result of this moment?
6. Bring your clip with you to class for video clubs on November 2nd.
7. Place your clip, reflection, and lesson plan in your submission folder before class on November 9th.

Assessment:

For this assignment, I am looking for you to show evidence of your ability to be a reflective practitioner – I want to see that you can look back on your practice, notice things that can help you inform your practice, and build on those moments to revise your approaches for next time. I am also looking for evidence that you are able to collaborate on lessons with colleagues (in this case, your MT) to create lessons that fit within the larger context of the class and unit. Furthermore, I am looking for evidence that you can plan for discussion, writing out questions and potential follow-up questions to facilitate productive student talk. I will take all of these things into consideration in my evaluation of your lesson plan and reflection.