

Methods Based Peer Visit Form

Adapted from the CCSSE "Classroom Observation Form" and FIRST IV Observation Rubric

Date: _____ Course/Section: _____ Length of class session: _____
 Instructor: _____ Peer Observer: _____
 Subject matter of lesson: _____

Directions: For each section below that is selected as a focus area for the observation, use the items as indicators to look for during the observation. Use the space next to each indicator to note specific instances you want to remember. Use the Comments space to summarize what you observed regarding the section in a more holistic manner. Then provide overall comments in the final section.

I. PEDAGOGICAL APPROACH. How does the instructor’s approach to teaching support meaningful student learning?

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| a) Speaks clearly and audibly |
| b) Writes clearly and legibly (whiteboard, notes, document camera, etc.) |
| c) Shows enthusiasm for the subject matter and teaching |
| d) Encourages student questions and student participation |
| e) Gives students an adequate amount of time to respond to questions |
| f) Engages students with material through multiple modalities (presentation, hands-on activities, graphs, models, media, etc.) |
| g) Uses student groups to explore concepts, not just to practice what they learn |
| h) Uses web-based resources, PowerPoint, clickers or other technological tools fluently and in a manner appropriate for the purpose of the lesson |

Comments:

II. APPROACH TO SUBJECT MATTER CONTENT. How does the instructor engage students with material to be learned?

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| a) Explains the learning objectives for the class session |
| b) Uses questions or activities to identify misconceptions |
| c) Shows how new concepts build on earlier concepts in the course or reflect larger themes in the discipline |
| d) Uses familiar examples to illustrate or explain concepts |
| e) Shows how concepts apply to “real world” situations |
| f) Ensures that major points are summarized at the end of the lesson |

Comments:

III. INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNIQUES EMPLOYED. Does the lesson use a balance of techniques to foster student learning?

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| a) Lecture |
| b) Teacher-led discussion |
| c) Small group or paired activities/discussion |
| d) Teacher demonstration of a procedure |
| e) Working on practice problems |
| f) Formative assessment activities |

Comments:

IV. ENGAGEMENT OF STUDENTS IN THE LEARNING. Are students actively and intellectually engaged with the content?

a) Instructor makes regular use of questions and activities to engage students with the material
b) Instructor poses questions that cause students to think (how? why?), not just recall (who? what?)
c) Instructor notices when particular students are not engaged and takes action to involve them in the class
d) High proportion of student talk vs. teacher talk
e) Students talk with each other about the material, as well as talking to the instructor
f) Students appear to see the relevance of what they are doing to what they are supposed to be learning

Comments:

V. MONITORING STUDENT LEARNING. How do the instructor and students know that students are learning?

a) Questions or activities provide opportunities for students to voice their current understanding
b) Students prompted to explain their reasoning for their answers
c) Students receive immediate or timely constructive feedback
d) Students have opportunities to reflect on their learning
e) Instructor probes for student understanding even if they do not ask questions
f) Students explain what they learn in their own words.
g) Classroom Response System questions (clicker, polling, etc.) require more than factual recall or facilitate direct discussion

Comments:

VI. LEARNING COMMUNITY. Are the instructor and students engaged in a positive, productive learning community?

a) Instructor respects and encourages student contributions
b) Students appear at ease asking questions and interacting with the instructor
c) Instructor (and/or TAs) moves throughout classroom, interacting with individual students and student groups
d) When in groups, students work collaboratively to accomplish tasks
e) Students exchange ideas, listen critically, and respectfully challenge each other
f) Instructor asks students to explain ideas to each other

Comments:

SUMMARY COMMENTS ABOUT THE CLASS SESSION OBSERVED: