

Appendix B

EFFECTIVE CLASSROOM OBSERVATIONS (Student Teachers)

A student teacher always needs to observe the class and the cooperating teacher at points throughout the experience, even toward the end, when the student teacher is more perceptive. However, the task can become long and fruitless unless the student teacher is guided in what to look for. Below are some suggestions for classroom observations by the student teacher.

1. List ways in which the teacher gives attention to the learning of each student during a discussion period.
2. Observe illustrations of how the teacher steered the discussion back on track after a student had made comments or raised questions that temporarily sidetracked the discussion.
3. Try to recognize the techniques that the teacher uses to motivate the lesson activities in a particular area.
4. Identify the components of the lesson.
5. What techniques are used to focus the attention of the learner?
6. List evidences of incorrect or hazy concepts and suggest ways they might have been clarified or prevented.
7. List the steps by which the teacher presented a lesson.
8. Tally the number of times each student was called on during a period of time and the times the student voluntarily participated by asking a question or making a comment.
9. Observe one particular student who is interesting or puzzling and record what the student was doing each minute for a given period of time. Analyze the activity pattern of the student as to how much time was spent in purposeful activity and as to the ways in which the student misused his/her time.
10. Identify ways that the teacher adapts the lesson to individual differences as the lesson progresses.
11. Try to identify differences between and among students.
12. How much of the lesson is review and how much is new work?
13. How is class drill made interesting?
14. How many students in the class begin work immediately upon receiving an assignment? How many “put off” the dreaded moment of beginning work? What techniques do they use to put off the work?