REFLECTIVE PRACTICE: by critically examining their subject knowledge, pedagogical content knowledge, and pedagogical skills to improve their diverse students’ learning.

Class: SED 626 (Dr. Rivas, Spring 2007) | Assignment: Video Project

Assignment

In SED 626, one of the projects was to videotape one of our class sessions. While watching our own video, we had to make several observations and gather our thoughts in writing. We had to observe and analyze the strengths and weakness in our teaching. We reflected on what can be improved upon and what is valuable for continued use in the classroom. Furthermore observations were made to determine whether students were learning. The assignment forced us to look at our own practices and observe our students learning.

Connection between Assignment and SLO

This assignment allowed us to have an opportunity to record a class session and analyze our teaching styles and classroom events from a different perspective. The video project allowed me to see how comfortable and how well I understood a specific content. Seeing my own discomfort allows me to see what my student saw. Therefore, it pushes me to be better prepared. If the instructor is not comfortable with their own content, how do we expect our students to be?

Once a better grasp on the content is established, changing or enhancing methods in teaching the content will be easier. The assignment provided me an opportunity to examine my lesson and critique what went well and what needs to change in my delivery of content. It gave me ideas on how to change my methods and approach for next year’s class. Changing my pedagogy can improve my student’s learning and understanding of the concept. Changes do not necessarily mean new methods, but create improvements on already practiced methods so that more students can attain the content being taught. The video project formalized what we try to
do on a daily basis, recollect what happened in the lesson and improve upon what worked and did not worked.

*What you learned and how it will influence your teaching*

In order to grow in my profession I need to continue to reflect on my own practices. Sometimes the daily grind of the classroom does not let us take a moment and reflect back on the day. After learning science for so many years and teaching it for a couple of years, sometimes the difficult thing is admitting whether you truly understand the content. Teachers get so wrapped in teaching all the standards that basic understanding gets so lost. I need to remember the importance of the content, and it is not found in the details of theory, but in why it is important in the big picture. This assignment reminds me to make sure that the students receive the foundation necessary to understand the concept. No assumptions can be made whether the students have the prior knowledge necessary to learn the content. The video assignment was valuable because it reminded me to see the importance of knowledge and how it is necessary to lay the foundation for our students.

One of the difficult things with the assignment was defining how I knew my students were learning. In my head, I have an idea of how this looks like. However, doing the assignment reminds me that one single method will not accommodate all students. I need to remember that I have to constantly approach content so that more than one learning modality can be enriched. Some students will not just learn with lecture alone or just hands on activities. I need to plan my curriculum so that students receive the content in multiple ways.

The video assignment reminded me to be cognizant of my teaching methods. I need to continue to be critical of my pedagogy and continue to find ways to improve upon so that a diverse set of students can be reached.