Catalina Charles

Fall 2009- Practicum Lesson

AP Government Lesson

Self-Assessment

**Preplanning:**

 This lesson served as a collaborative effort between a social studies teacher, at Marathon Central School District and myself. The intent of my portion of the lesson was to introduce students to various search tools available to them at the school library. Several meetings occurred between the teacher, regarding the planning of this lesson and myself. We spoke in person as well as through email correspondence. The cooperating librarian also relayed messages when necessary. Through our correspondence I was able to obtain all the necessary information needed to develop the lesson and what her needs were for her students. She was very happy to provide me with drafts and final copies of student work in order to assess student learning.

 I began planning for this lesson with Ms. Siesel several weeks before the lesson was to occur. I felt very prepared when the day came to present my information to the class. I also felt that I had a good understanding of each student in the class. I have been a substitute teacher in this particular district for the past year and therefore have had many of the students in class on several occasions. In the event that I had not had prior knowledge of the students, I feel that it would have been more difficult to plan for individual student needs. Also, having enough time to plan and organize before the lesson is crucial to success. I realize that it is very important to be able to improvise when necessary but being prepared is very helpful for a successful lesson.

**Implementation:**

 The lesson I felt went very smoothly but student interaction was very minimal. Student understanding was very high. Students knew exactly was expected of them throughout the series of lessons. They followed directions extremely well and there were no behavioral issues to speak of. They possessed background knowledge of search tools and seemed interested in learning new ways to find information.

 In regards to my teaching of the lesson, nervousness played a large role in my performance. I was nervous and therefore rushed through my power point presentation. Aside from speaking too quickly, I felt confident in my content knowledge and documentation for the class. The technology and resources that were available for my use during this lesson were very helpful tools. I have not had the opportunity to use a Smart Board in the past, and found it to be a very effective tool when presenting information. Laptops were easily attainable for student research as well, both in the classroom and in the library media center.

 The one aspect of the lesson that I was disappointed in was the students participation. When I presented them with a question, it was difficult to get them to answer without prodding. They understood the content, but didn’t seem to want to interact with me. I feel that this is likely due to the fact that they were unfamiliar with me and felt uncomfortable speaking when there was a video camera in the room. Next time I will also make a conscious effort to speak more slowly and pace myself.

**Assessment of Student Learning:**

 As stated before, the students seem to have a firm understanding of the content that was presented. I was provided with before and after versions of their speeches from which to make this judgment. They also provided me with a list of works cited to judge which search tools students utilized to do their research. Both the teacher and I felt that they fulfilled the objectives of the lesson. Their works cited and speeches were the assessment tools used to determine student learning. The students fulfilled all standards mentioned in the lesson plan. Goals and objectives were met.