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Curriculum Development and Assessment

Lesson Reflection

Unit Lesson 1 Self-Reflection

*1. What went well? Why?*

I think the lesson was a success overall. I especially think that the video was successful as a pre-reading strategy because it gave students an overview of the entire plot of the story. Students had a sense of who the main characters are and what the most important events are before we read. This helps increase student comprehension in the following lessons.

I also feel that I was able to successfully draw in examples that made the topic relevant and timely for the students. By making analogies between new terms and new stories, students are able to better understand and internalize the concepts. By using examples ( the “Blurred Lines” controversy, the SADD awareness event, current movies), the students were able to more readily understand the new literature concepts

*2. What didn’t go well? Why?*

I feel like I rambled a bit, especially at transition points. I think that sometimes I didn’t know what to say next so I just kept talking. I feel like I needed to make a brief list that clearly gives everything I need to cover in sequential order. I just needed to have a better sense of direction. I think that comes from practice and experience.

I also feel like I didn’t do a very good job giving clear instructions. I felt rushed because the time was flying by, but I needed to give more explicit instructions and clarify expectations for the students. In the end, they got the material – but their work on the homework would have benefited from clearer instructions.

I also think that student’s needed more opportunity to discuss/answer. I want to use more total participation strategies in the future and provide more wait time for students. I think this is something that I did better in the following lessons. I feel like nerves and just starting out contributed to this weakness. I think maintaining engagement is an area that needs continual monitoring and improvement.

*3. Did the lesson accomplish its objectives?*

Yes! After checking the student’s notes, responses, and worksheets, I was able to see that all students met the objectives. Overall, I wished some of their answers were more robust, but I attribute that to my less than clear instructions more than the student’s learning.

*4. How can I improve this lesson for future use?*

I think addressing the weaknesses listed above is the first thing I would do to improve this lesson for the future. I need to ask more detailed comprehension checks – instead of “Do you understand?” I would ask, “What are three purposes for tragedy?” I also need to have the lesson transitions more clearly in my mind in order to help keep the class on track and avoid talking too much and rambling.

I think I would also change my handouts to give more explicit instructions. For example, I might add a line to some of the questions that says (Please cite at least 3 reasons that support your opinion) or (Please answer in 2-3 complete sentences) or something like that to give more specific parameters for what kind of response I am expecting. I might also write the titles of the stories on the compare and contrast sheet before making the copies in order to minimize confusion.

Overall, as far as the content goes, I think I would use this lesson again in the future with just these minimal adjustments.