



CLASSROOM OBSERVATION FEEDBACK

TO: COLIN GRAY
FROM: Karen Hallett-Rupp and Peter van Leusen
SUBJECT: R 341 Classroom observation feedback
DATE: 08/14/2012

This is the report from the classroom observation of your guest teaching during the R 341 class taught by Micah Model. This class session was recorded during the fall 2011 semester. We met and discussed these major issues related to your teaching on July 30, 2012:

Organization: Considering the objective and location of the class (i.e. technology demonstration in computer lab), organization of the session is paramount to keeping student engaged. Built into the class is a didactic frame via PowerPoint that briefly presents and demonstrates pertinent information to students, followed by hands-on activities that result in deliverables of class assignments. We observed the following in his session:

- Good use of advanced organizers (in form of PPT) with some brief explanations of activities that were to follow.
- Ability to connect and sequence individual segments seamlessly, thus providing a natural flow and keeping the overall topic of the class (Image Manipulation in Photoshop) in perspective.
- Collegial and productive collaboration with the instructor of the class.

Clarity: Students generally need clear instructions on what they are being asked to do, in particular when they need to follow technical procedures as in this case. You exhibited clarity in the following ways:

- Used clear instructions to the students supported by visuals.
- Prepared and showed concrete examples to model outcomes for students.
- Used clear, examples of concepts that students could understand.
- Keep in mind that students are beginning to learn the material and are less familiar with certain procedures compared to you. This might require giving students more time or enunciate important steps or concepts.

Encouraging student engagement: Students need to “use” the information that they are given in order to truly understand it. Use techniques that require them to address the information more deeply.

- During the session, you periodically paused your demonstrations to check on students' understanding and provide time to 'catch up' on individual tasks.
- Students were working on a project that required the application of the newly learn skills, thus making the material more relevant.

We didn't discuss this in our meeting, but taking a few minutes after each session to record what class activities you used and how they worked will be very helpful to you as you prepare to teach this material or other courses in the future. You can take notes on your lesson plan and save for the future.

Overall, we concluded that you did a good job with this class. You are comfortable with speaking to a group and you have a good command of the content and the classroom. Your lesson plan was well constructed and included several preview and review techniques to highlight important steps for students. Throughout the session, you frequently checked for students' understanding and made sure that they were engaged in the topic. Your concrete examples made the content meaningful as you created an organized, effective class. Good job!