

Daniel Zajic
CICT Course Observation
Post-Observation Plan
Letter to Instructor

Matt Chmielewski, Instructor
Bi 302L - Human Anatomy & Physiology Lab
10:45am - Tuesday, February 12, 2019

Matt,

It is clear from my class observation of you that you are an experienced teacher, well-rehearsed in the material, and have a desire to pass on your knowledge to your students. Below I address some of the comments I made during the observation and provide feedback and suggestions in hopes to further your teaching success:

The instructor began the class by giving an organized introduction, which included an overview of what information will be covered in class and what expectations he had for the students. By telling students what they needed to know before lecturing, students understood at what level they had to know the material – I believe this was an effective teaching strategy. In addition to making hand gestures and pointing to certain topics to emphasize their importance or underscore how their processes worked, the instructor included anecdotes, one-liners, and real-life examples that effectively kept the students engaged. These strategies also brought those students who seemingly lost interest back into the lecture. The instructor asked a few questions during the lecture which allowed students to engage. If students were struggling to answer the question, the instructor led them in the right direction without directly telling them the answer. This allowed the students to come to the right answer collectively as a class, which fostered a positive learning environment. I encourage the instructor to continue these methods in their teaching.

It seemed at times the students were getting distracted and no longer engaged (towards the second half of the lecture), but were brought back when the instructor used the previously mentioned methods. Once the lecture was over, the students organized themselves into small-groups (3-4 students per group) to complete the lab assignment. Students appeared ready to complete the assignment and had the basic knowledge to start their experiments because of the instructor thoroughness explaining the experiments during lecture. The instructor walked around the room and checked in on groups as they began their experiments to ensure they knew what they were doing. The students were comfortable asking questions when they needed help and it was clear that the instructor wanted their students to succeed. The students and instructor had a positive rapport, which again promoted a positive classroom atmosphere.

You have the foundation for a great career in teaching. Through my discussion with you, it is clear that you are self-aware of areas you want to improve on and you are actively working to accomplish those. I encourage you to incorporate more questions throughout the lecture as well as real-life examples or applicable scenarios. Perhaps including examples of how you would quiz them or test them on the material would be beneficial to the students' studying as well as keeping the students engaged/paying attention during the lecture. Lastly, we discussed implementing more active-learning activities during the lecture, which I believe would benefit students and aid in their success in the course. This could also break up the lecture and reduce students losing focus.

Best,

Daniel Zajic