

**SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY  
FRAMEWORK FOR TEACHING  
Observation 5**

**Student Teacher:** Jessica Hynek  
**School District:** Grove City School District  
**SRU Supervisor:** Dr. Geraldine C. Jenny

**Cooperating Teachers:** Mr. William Ford  
**Grade/Subject:** Grade 1  
**Semester/Year:** Spring, 2015

*Note: In Observation 5, I make specific comments about the lesson and general comments about Jessica's performance in each Domain of the Conceptual Framework. I very much appreciated Mr. Ford's thorough Report of Jessica's Student Teaching Performance and my review follows a similar format.*

**Domain 1: Planning, Preparation, and Assessment**

- *Today's lesson was focused on Differentiating and counting coins. Several pedagogical strategies were employed in the lesson. When the Prometheus did not work, Jessica wisely used the blackboard and "Magic Chalk" as alternative teaching tools and all the students were interactively engaged.*

Throughout Student Teaching, Jessica has been an excellent planner. She planned and prepared carefully for her student teaching assignments. She identified important concepts and skills. She did extremely well in the areas of planning, preparation and assessment. She prepared extensively for every lesson and modified and adjusted lessons to fit the needs of the students. She utilizes concepts and skills that are relevant to students' abilities and interests. She capitalizes on student strengths and is sensitive to weaknesses to plan lessons and adapt pedagogical techniques when appropriate. I was impressed with her organization and careful preparation for each lesson. She enhanced the curriculum by using resources from diverse sources.

**Domain 2: The Classroom Environment**

- *Today was no exception to the high standards Jessica has adhered to throughout Student Teaching. She has consistently created a warm and nurturing classroom climate. Clapping and chants were used to effectively gain student attention. Jessica was reminded not to begin instruction until she has all of the students' attention. Jessica took the initiative to create the door design, "Bee Display" and Antarctic Explorer Station which greatly enhances the class environment.*

Again in First Grade, Jessica created a kind and friendly classroom environment. She interacted positively with the students in her classroom. Her approach and tones were gentle, encouraging, yet firm. She demonstrated genuine concern and respect for all of her students. The students knew they could trust her. She worked with all students to encourage positive behavior choices. She structures their environment so they can meet success in both large and small group instruction as well as independent learners. She also maximizes student learning potential by structuring the classroom environment with appropriate learning visuals, manipulative materials, hands-on activities and instructional aids.

**Domain 3: Instruction and Communication**

- *Jessica has made impressive efforts to improve in the important area of Grammar. She has met with an SRU English professor and conscientiously worked towards eradicating grammatical errors. Today's lesson contained no apparent grammatical errors and I am very impressed with her efforts towards future refinement.*

During instruction Jessica expresses her ideas concisely and logically. She engages all students in discussions. During Student Teaching, she has also responded sensitively to verbal and nonverbal signals from the students that indicated either a mastery of material or a lack of understanding and then adjusts her lessons accordingly. She exhibited initiative, originality and creativity regarding the community of learners. She reflected on each lesson and desired feedback in order to intentionally implement recommendations.

**Domain 4: Professional Responsibility**

- *Jessica is making great strides in completing her Action Research Project, professional portfolio and assembling her job hunting materials (resume, cover letter etc.) Her Tri-fold mini-portfolio is quite impressive. I would love a copy!*

It is my opinion that Jessica is a true professional. She demonstrated this during Student Teaching as she arrived early and stayed late and volunteered to help in any way possible. She maintains accurate records and collects quality qualitative as well as quantitative data regarding student progress in a systematic manner. She is punctual, dresses appropriately and accepts and takes her professional responsibilities seriously. She established excellent rapport with other faculty and staff members and sought their assistance regarding teaching and learning. I am confident that her Action Research project and presentation will be outstanding.

**Summary Comments**

In sum, today's observation confirms my belief that Jessica is already an excellent teacher. Mr. Ford and I concur that she is a dedicated professional and cares greatly for her students. She creates a classroom environment where all students have the opportunity to be successful. I know she will continue to make positive contributions that benefit student learning.