



Classroom Observation and Post-observation Discussion

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Date: Dec. 13th, 2022

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Peer Observation

- Refers to a teacher or other observer(s) closely watching and monitoring a language lesson or part of a lesson in order to gain an understanding of some aspect(s) of teaching, learning, or classroom interaction.

Purpose of Peer Observation

- Provide an opportunity for the sharing of ideas and expertise, as well as a chance to discuss problems and concerns.

General Guidelines for Peer Observation

- Observation should have a focus.
- Observers should use specific procedures.
- The observer should remain an observer.

Notices for Peer Observation

- The observer's function should be limited to that of gathering information.
- The observer should not be involved in evaluating a teacher's lesson.
- Nonevaluative observation within the context of professional development is often welcomed by teachers.

Suggested Procedures for Peer Observation

- 1. Arrange a pre-observation orientation session
- 2. Identify a focus for the observation (What to observe?)
- 3. Employ appropriate procedures to suit the purpose of the observation
- 4. Carry out the observation
- 5. Arrange a post-observation discussion session

Notices for Carrying out the Observation

- Careful Observation: Your First Task
- Effective Observation: An Objective and a Procedure
- Effective Observation: Be Objective

Post-observation Discussion

- The discussion method can be extremely valuable in understanding a procedure you have observed or the rationale behind it.
- A good discussion requires planning and nonjudgmental questions that reveal important data.

Discussion Techniques

- Invite the teacher to talk about his/her teaching.
- Express appreciation.
- Talk about overall comments and strengths of teaching.

Things to be Aware of During the Observation

- Appropriate manners.
- Possible content/items/categories for writing notes.
- Categorize and itemize the content while writing notes.
- Prioritize the questions. Ask the most important first.