

Pre-Observation Conference
MTTC Fall '06
Session 2

Kristi as coach, Mary's responses in blue

Mary's Goal

Use effective coaching strategies that encourage teachers to develop instructional strategies for student-centered learning.

1. What strategies do you plan to use as you mentor teachers?
 - First I want to make sure that I am really listening to key words as to what he/she wants to accomplish with the lesson.
 - I will use paraphrasing to summarize what the teacher says.
 - I will try to use meditative type questions to expand the teacher's thinking and encourage more thought.
2. Reflecting back to your first coaching experience do you foresee any obstacles?

Of course I will need to establish and maintain trust. I think this is one of my strengths as a coach. I will need to remember to watch for clues such as body language. Using the elements of pace to match the teacher's actions may be helpful if I feel that there is some anxiety. Remaining positive is important.
3. Do you know the content of the lesson your mentee is planning on teaching?

As the district has mandated, she is developing science lessons that incorporate TAKS objectives- especially ones that students did not do well in. The one she mentioned to me was classifying earth materials.
4. Your goal is to help her develop instructional strategies for learning that is student-centered. What specific questions do you think you could ask?

That is the hard part, not knowing exactly what the teacher has in mind at this time. One example might be, "You want students to be able to classify earth's materials, how are you going to guide students to accomplish this goal." If her answers do not imply student centered activities, then I might could as a question like, "I am curious, do you think there is a way that students can be led to make these decisions on their own?"
5. When you I observe you with your mentee, what would you like me to look for?

Record the questions that I ask as we talk about the activities for the lesson. Mark the questions that are answered with student-centered strategies.
6. In this coaching experience, you want your teacher to use student centered strategies to reach the goals of the lesson. You want me to record the questions you ask and mark it if the reply results in a student-centered activity. Do I understand you correctly?

That is it. Thanks.

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Mary as coach, Kristi's responses in blue

Kristi's Goal

Use cognitive coaching strategies to direct teachers to extend their technology knowledge by becoming more adept in a variety of applications and tools

1. See if I am clear on this, you want teachers to implement a variety of and applications in their classroom.
Yes, I want them to expand their knowledge in technology so that they will utilize accessible technology with their students.
2. As you consider this goal, what types of tools and applications do you have in mind for your teachers to utilize?
Not all teachers have a grasp on applications such as spreadsheets, word documents, or databases. Our campuses also have software available such as Kidspiration and Kid Pix that I'm not sure all teachers are aware of how to use. Tools such as digital cameras, scanners, United Streaming videos are also things I'm not sure teachers realize they have access to or what to do with them.
3. What will you say or do to let teachers know they have choices?
I will ask them to list the software and tools they know are available on campus. If they do not name all of them, I'll ask them if they've ever heard of _____ or seen another teacher use it.
4. Once the list of available tools is established, how will you guide the teacher to a specific choice?
I will ask them if they would have time to schedule time to train with me on that application or tool sometime so that they can learn more about it.
5. Based on what you know about mentoring, what will you do if the teacher is unsure about using something new?
I will be empathetic and positive. I will encourage him/her to remember other success when they have tried something new.
6. What type of data would you like me to observe when you are mentoring your teacher?
List the applications and tools that are mentioned in the mentoring session. Write down the decision the teacher makes in regards to a new tool and comments that she makes.
7. In summary, you want your teachers to expand their knowledge of technology by using new tools and applications. As you mentor your teacher I will list the applications and tools that are discussed in the conversation. I will write down the tool the teacher decides to try and any comments she makes regarding that tool.
Yes, that's it.