

MTTC 1001  
Summer 2007  
Post conference

Coach: Ellen Zimmerman  
Mentee: (MTTC Student): Shawn Smith

**Ellen:** Overall, how do you think your mentoring experience went?

**Shawn:** I think it went well and that I learned a lot. I feel that this experience has not only helped me with my coaching abilities, but has really helped me improve as a teacher as well. By having to consider so many details of a lesson plan that are normally very internalized, I have learned how to better dissect a lesson and help a teacher consider these sometimes overlooked, but very important aspects.

**Ellen:** Do you think you achieved your professional goals that you set in your professional development plan?

**Shawn:** My professional goals were to develop and practice cognitive coaching strategies through the development of effective questioning techniques and relationship-building skills, and to increase the frequency and understanding of technology integration throughout campus. I feel that I have made progress toward each of these goals, but am still a long way from mastering them. I think my questioning skills are good, but I need to remember to not only script out questions (prior planning), but be flexible enough to develop questions as I coach a teacher. I do plan on being more proactive with trying to get teachers to try technology projects on our campus. As the librarian, I plan on trying to collaborate on research projects this year, which will integrate technology in both the research as well as presentation aspects.

**Ellen:** Are there any areas in your coaching experience that you feel "out of your comfort level" in? What are they?

**Shawn:** Hmm.....out of my comfort level. I guess that would probably be the part of coaching where I need to put the teacher at ease with small talk. I am very task oriented, and I find making small talk difficult, usually because I am anxious to "jump in" on tasks!

**Ellen:** How about areas that you felt you were particularly strong in? Can you share some of those?

**Shawn:** The areas I was strongest in are probably in the area of actual technology knowledge and use. While I certainly don't know everything about technology – far from it – when I talk with teachers, I realize that I do know quite a bit. So I guess this is one of my stronger areas. Also, I am very creative, and I think this strength will be helpful in coaching as well as collaborating.

**Ellen:** Did you feel your teacher was comfortable with the technology that was integrated in the lesson?

**Shawn:** Yes, for the most part I think she was comfortable. I think she might end up being a bit less comfortable with the online and subscription database research, but that is the part that I think will stretch her professionally. She is fairly comfortable with the presentation software we'll be using.

**Ellen:** How will this mentoring experience with your teacher help you in the future?

**Shawn:** I think it is already helping me. My teacher is definitely a teacher with a lot of credibility on campus, and she has already said that she would like both of us to present a summary of the project at a faculty meeting. This will definitely help me in my technology coaching role, as well as in my library collaboration role. As they say, word of mouth is the best advertising!



Shawn Smith