

Lesson Field Notes: Reflecting on How You Learned Today

Overview and Goals of this Assignment

The purpose of the lesson field note assignment is to help you critically consider the structure of the class and how you are learning in a particular class session. Things about the class that might affect your ability to learn new concepts and skills include the kinds of activities and tasks you undertake in class, the behaviors of the instructor, and those of yourself and your fellow classmates. Answer the following questions within 24 hours of attending class in order to re-process the class while it is still fresh in your mind.

Class Narrative

- a) Provide a review of the structure of the lesson (e.g. how the instructor sequences material, what was the “beginning, middle, and end” of the class?).
- b) Describe the range and nature of the activities that occurred in the lesson:
examples: Lecture/demonstrations/small group work/in-class writing/class discussion/working on problems/ student presentations/ etc.
- c) What were the goals of the lesson? Did the instructor make the goals explicit, or did you pick up on implicit goals? How do they relate to larger course goals?

Reflection on Learning

- d) Describe your actions and behaviors throughout the class. How did they affect your learning in class?
- e) Describe your peers’ actions and behaviors throughout the class. How did they affect your learning in class?
- f) Describe your instructor’s actions and behaviors throughout the class. How did they affect your learning in class?
- g) What, if any, technology was used in class today (handouts, multimedia, readings, etc.)?
- e) Describe how you prepared for class today, or were asked to prepare for class. Did your preparation help you learn in class today?

Evaluation and Goal

In conclusion, read over your lesson field notes one more time before listing ...

- One thing you feel was effective in promoting your learning in class
- One thing you’d change or improve about how the class went
- One thing you’ll change about the way you prepared or engaged in class
- Something about the class that you or the instructor cannot change that affects how you learn (i.e. room features, size of class, time of class meeting, weather, etc).