

Fieldwork Observation Essay #1 Interaction and Engagement

Teaching Performance Expectations

1.5 Promote students' critical thinking and analysis through activities that promote opportunities for inquiry, problem solving, responding to and framing meaningful questions, and reflection.

2.6 Establish and maintain clear expectations for positive classroom behavior and for student-to-student and student-to-teacher interactions by communicating classroom routines, procedures, and norms to students and families.

In your participation/observation classroom, how are the teacher and other adults in the school and classroom creating a caring collaborative learning community in which all students participate? Observe student opportunities to work with partners and in groups. Note how many students are working together, what their tasks are, whether they understand the task, and how they share work responsibilities. Try to *describe* rather than *evaluate*.

Consider such areas as the following. How do the adults help the children to care about and respect each other and to follow class rules? How do they help all students to work together to problem solve, think critically, and take responsibility for their own learning? Look for nonverbal interactions as well as verbal (Hands raised, teacher signals).

Write an essay (approx. 3 pages in length). See the rubric for this observation essay.

- **Describe** what you are observing using factual language: numbers of students doing observable actions; teacher quotes or paraphrases; teacher actions.
- **Draw a diagram** of the classroom including the seating arrangement, placement of materials, class library, audio-visual equipment and computers.
- **Include a copy** of your fieldwork observation notes with this assignment

Fieldwork observation notes should be recorded from each visit on the Notes from Observations portion of your School and Classroom Observation Log. You will use these notes to assist you as you write your Fieldwork Observation Essay #1.

In your observation classroom:

How are the teacher and other adults in the classroom creating a caring collaborative learning community in which all students participate? (Greeting, positive feedback)

How do the adults help the children to care about and respect each other and to follow class rules? (Posted rules, rewards & consequences; reminders of procedures and routines)

How do adults help students take responsibility for their own learning? (Assignment written on board)

How do adults help all students work together to:
 Problem solve (modeling, rehearsing)?
 Think critically (modeling, teaching activities)?

Observe student opportunities to work with partners and in groups.
 How many students are working together?

What are their tasks?

Do they understand the tasks?

How do they share work responsibilities?

4 (5 points)	3 (4 points)	2 (3 points)	1 (2 points)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Described classroom activity using factual language • Addressed all observation questions • Attached detailed diagram of classroom • Attached detailed notes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Described classroom activity using some factual language • Addressed most observation questions • Attached diagram of classroom • Attached notes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Described classroom activity using opinion and some factual language • Addressed some observation questions • Attached scant diagram of classroom • Attached some or no notes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Described classroom activity superficially and/or with opinionated statements • Did not address observation questions • Diagram of classroom not included • Attached few or no notes