SAMPLE JOURNAL

How have you developed as A teacher in relation to SWOT and microteach - In relation to my SWOT analysis I have developed my knowledge of the various levels by observing and teaching different classes. I all got involved with classes that I initially thought were not my specialism for example storytelling but I was able to relate this to my specialism of dance by teaching storytelling through movement. This therefore reveals my level of confidence growing and trying new things to gain as much experience as possible. I also feel my teaching has developed with my realisation that I do not have to feed the students with information (this complies to the behaviourist theory that the teacher is the transmitter in a classroom of passive learners) but with the right questioning I can draw out information from the students. This point also come up with others in the discussion about the stress and worry of remembering information but it is important to always take into account we are the experts and always know more about the subject than the students.

Quality of Mentoring- I discussed how my level of mentoring had improved over time and how I had two very different experiences with the two mentors. The most important part of the mentoring I feel is to build a professional relationship, this will then enable you to feel comfortable within the environment and have gained trust and are able to ask questions. “The process whereby one person comes to trust another is complex, but an important factor in the case of student/tutor relationships."(Miller in Atkinson and Chandler, 2001, pg 13) I feel this relationship is growing over time with one mentor rather than other but second had improved considerably. I realised that the relationship is the most important part to achieve success and that different view and personalities are not important but must be dealt with professionally. I was surprised to learn others had had some difficulty with quality of mentoring and this gave me some reassurance that I was not alone. I was also pleased for others that had had a really good experience as you could see the admiration towards the mentors from them and this was an aim to achieve.

Relevance of theories for effective teaching- I stated that I would like to go more in-depth with the theories of teaching/learning as I have not understood them all fully and their relevance. I would also like to look at some more practical based teaching theories as we all work in practical classrooms, I am able to relate some to my own area but not all and feel it would be more beneficial to everyone to have this information. As working in a practical classroom some thing discussed are not always realistic and would like this to be taken into consideration. The rest of the group agreed and felt it would be relevant to the whole class.

Most effective methods of classroom management observed from tutors- We discussed this question openly due to time constraints and came to the conclusion that to effectively manage a classroom the most important trait is consistency, this gives the students balance, builds up trust and expectations but then also allows for change to shock students for example a teacher suddenly having a raised and stern voice the students would know they have crossed the line and authority would be shown. We also felt it was important for the teacher to display enthusiasm and include personal experience to keep the students interested which therefore stops them going off track.

Overall the group felt the same on most of the questions it was insightful as you would not have always known the issues others had had if it wasn't for this discussion. I feel it also answered questions for some people and as a result allowed them to move on from issues.

Bibliography

Miller, J in Atkinson, c and Chandler, B. (2001) *Student Support, Tutoring Guidance and Dealing with Disruption.* London: Greenwich University Press