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Video Reflection

I have learned a great deal from watching the video of my teaching. As a teacher, it is important to be continuously improving and watching the video helped me to focus on the areas that I need to improve. This is especially important for me since I never had the opportunity to have my teaching evaluated by a fellow teacher.

There are some aspects of the class that I felt went well. For instance, I think that my energy level is high and I have a good relationship with the students. The students responded well to the activities and were excited to participate in the activities. I also noticed that I repeated the instructions and phrases multiple times and used hand and body movements to communicate the information. Lastly, I barely used the students’ native language which is a huge personal improvement for me. It is much easier to resort to the students’ L1 since it is the same for the whole class and saves time but by using their language, I was limiting the amount of input the students received.

Although I did see some good techniques used in the class, there was also much that could be improved upon. For example, I need to use clearer comprehension checks. The video showed that some students did not understand all of the instructions. This became clear twice in the video. The first time was during the exercise where the students had to find new words and then again during the homework assignment. On the video, I heard the students asking for more clarification in Spanish which made it clear that I did not explain the instructions of the tasks fully. I think adding a comprehension check in the students’ L1 would have helped to clear up the confusion but still providing them with the English input.

The activities could also have been improved in the lesson. Instead of having the students act out the sports, I could have put them into two teams and made the activity more competitive which might have increased the interest level of the students. The activity could also have been more successful if I had used pictures for the sports and activities rather than simply creating a list on the board.

Another aspect of the class that could have been better planned out was the list of frequency adverbs. The list on the board did not have any system or make it easy for students to determine the meaning of the word. If the adverbs had been put in order from always to never, the meaning of each word might have been clearer.

Finally, I think the students could benefit from more wait time. As a teacher, I constantly worry about my students feeling embarrassed. However, this sometimes causes me to reduce the amount of wait time I provide my students. For instance, when I was eliciting the vocabulary on the board, I did not give the student enough time to figure out that poker goes with the verb play. Instead, I quickly pointed to the board and gave the answer which did not require the student to arrive at the answer on her own. This is one aspect of my teaching that I would like to focus on in my future classes.

Overall, I found the video very helpful and allowed me to see my progress as a teacher. I hope to use my observations to improve my future classes and look forward to feedback from others.