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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 continue improving and watching the video helped me to focus on the aspects of my teaching that need more attention. This is especially important for me since I have had very few opportunities to be evaluated by a professional in the field of education.

There are some aspects of the class that I felt went well. For instance, I think that my energy level was high and you can observe that I have a good relationship with the students. The students responded well to the activities and were excited to participate throughout the entire class. I also noticed that I repeated the instructions and phrases multiple times and used hand and body movements to facilitate communication. Lastly, I barely used the students' native language which is a personal improvement for me. It is much easier to resort to the students' L1 in an EFL setting, but by using their language I was limiting the amount of input the students received.

Although I did see many good teaching techniques in the video, there were also many aspects that could be further developed. For example, I need to use clearer comprehension checks. The video showed that some students did not understand all of the instructions. This became evident at two separate times in the video. The first time was during the exercise where the students had to find new words and the second occurred later during the homework assignment. On the video, I heard the students asking for more clarification in Spanish which made it evident that I did not fully explain the instructions of the tasks. Giving clear, concise instructions is one trait of a good teacher, and I think that focusing on that aspect of my own teaching practice can help me to become a better teacher.

The activities in the lesson could also be further developed. Instead of having the students only act out the sports, they could have been placed in two teams. This likely would have made the activity more competitive and increased the interest level of the students. The vocabulary comprehension 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 should be modified was the written list of frequency adverbs. There was no order to the presentation of the frequency adverbs which may have led to confusion. 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 one 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 discover it for herself. Giving students wait time is one aspect of my teaching that I would like to focus on in my future classes.

This was the first time that I watched a video of my own teaching and overall, I found it to be very enlightening. The video allowed me to see the progress I have made as a teacher and it is clear that I have learned a lot over the past three years. I hope to use my observations from the video to improve my future classes.