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# Evaluation Reflective Response Writing

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Workshop Activity  
Handouts

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NJEA

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**You have great verbal interaction with your class. However, I did note that you only called on students that had their hands raised. Perhaps calling on the other students who are not raising their hands would allow you to also ascertain what information "they" know about the subject you are discussing.**

Thank you for noticing the great verbal interaction between me and my students. It is wonderful to have a class who is so excited all the time and more than willing to talk even with a visitor in the room.

Prior to your visit we had used "speaker power" in the room. Every child had to speak using the "power" as we were discussing last night's homework. The lesson I delivered during your visit was the time for students to raise their hands and be comfortable knowing that "speaker power" time was not in use for the next 40 minutes.

As you know, there are so many other ways to ascertain what information they have digested. After you left we used "catch if you can" to review the lesson and to reinforce what the students learned.

I always appreciate your suggestions. It is most unfortunate that "visitors" do not get to see what happens before and after their visit. The short time you are in the room gives you just a "taste" of what occurs on a daily basis.

## **Reflective Response #2**

**I noticed that one of your students had their head down on the desk while I was observing your class. It is of the utmost importance that you keep all children focused.**

Thank you for joining our class today. It is always a pleasure.

I am also glad you noticed that "CM" had her head down on her desk while you were in the classroom, but I am extremely pleased that you did not question "CM" about her head being down. It showed me that you understood there may have been "more than meets the eye" to the situation. I thank you for that!

"CM" had talked with me prior to your visit. She said she really did not feel well. She had been up all night because of her sister, who shares her bedroom, was throwing up all night long. And, as you know, it is almost impossible to function 100% on a day after you have had no sleep.

The class and I discussed with "CM" that today was a "special" day for her. She actually took advantage of one of our class personal days and knew when she needed to put her head down it was okay for this particular day.

It is important for our students to know that it is okay to not feel 100% each day. It validates their feelings.

How wonderful it is to have "CM" want to stay in school for the day and do her best under such adverse conditions. She could have asked to go to the nurse, go home, or caused disturbances throughout the day, but she was mature enough to realize when she needed some "head down" time.

**Your lesson today appeared to be of interest to all.  
However, your time on task needs to be addressed.**

I'm glad that you were able to see the high interest level my students exhibited during the lesson you observed today.

As this was in introductory lesson to the concept of \_\_\_\_\_, I knew that their interest would be peaked and remain high by raising a variety of questions and holding short discussions. After you left, the students were asked to formulate questions and comments about what they learned using the K-W-L approach. They did this with ease and excitement due to their sustained level of interest.

## **Reflective Response #4**

**It was a pleasure coming into your room today. You are to be commended for your successful classroom atmosphere.**

Thank you for joining my class today. It was indeed a pleasure to have an "outsider" see the learning that takes place on a daily basis in my room. So often no one realizes just how hard teachers work!

The atmosphere in my class is a result of a mutual respect the students and I share, and the students know they must maintain a high level of decorum due to the rules and procedures we have mutually agreed upon this year.

I look forward to working with you and my co-workers for many future years.

**I noticed that you do not have a lot of display of student's work in you room. Your room is not as organized as it should be. And, I think you need to rethink your seating arrangement.**

I'm so glad you came in on Thursday. We have been removing things from our bulletin boards in anticipation of putting up a new display of the most recent work. I hope you'll be able to come again in the next few weeks to see our science display.

The seating arrangement has been on my mind for some time. I would greatly appreciate your suggestions for a better seating arrangement in the classroom.

or

The seating arrangement has been on my mind for some time. If you remember, last fall I had a different seating arrangement that was not satisfactory. I was trying to find a different arrangement that would suit you and please you. You seem to know exactly how my students should be seated in order to learn. After almost a year with these students, although I feel this has been working for them you have noticed differently in just one visit.

**Your lesson today on South Africa was exciting.  
However, your lesson should have been stopped to  
calm down the few students who were over reacting.  
It is necessary to have all students focused at all times.**

Thank you for noticing just how excited the kids were about the lesson on South Africa! They have positively contributed more to the learning atmosphere in the room than one could ever even hope for.

Prior to your joining us for your 45 minute visit we had a fire drill (or whatever else you think occurred) and as you know that activity really escalates one's ability to begin a lesson immediately upon entering the room. Your timely visit did not allow us to take the 15 minutes or so necessary to 'calm down' after such an important event/training for the students.

May I also reiterate that visitor's phenomenon (contributed/takes over) for many of us when we know a guest is in the room. Many students want to show visitors/guest what they know and are excited. All students were focused - some were just thrilled to have you visit so they could show off.