

To

Thank you very much for inviting me to your 6<sup>th</sup> grade ELA classroom on November 10, 2021, to observe your instruction. Below are highlights of my observation.

#### Planning & Preparation

- Your lessons were developed around plot; you prepared an engaging lesson for students to practice their understanding of the elements of plot with relevant ‘pop culture’ short movies from Pixar.
- You posted and discussed your target objective for the class period in all both switches I observed.
- You ingeniously utilized your attendance time to get to know your students better as individuals by asking each student their favorite breakfast food; what a great way for student to connect with their peers.
- The materials you used to practice identifying the elements of plot were accessible to all students regardless of reading achievement level; I really like the idea of using humors Pixar shorts to do this, so the students are familiar with the elements of plot when they begin their next chapter book.

#### Classroom Environment

- I observed your flexibility, acceptance, and celebration of student differences and needs. Many of the students were focused on the social aspect of school (thinking out loud, social media) which may have led to inconsistent focus, but you demonstrated grace and flexibility when addressing the behaviors. However, the social behaviors never distracted from the learning in the classroom.
- You allowed student voice in the process of determining a new ‘attention getter’ and then allowed student choice in deciding which one to use. What a powerful opportunity to engage your students in the classroom culture you are building within each switch. You also used student choice when addressing individual concerns like taking an assessment electronically or on paper.
- I observed verbal participation, student confidence, fun and excitement.

#### Instruction

- The gradual release of responsibility (GRR) was embedded in your lesson: “I do” when you reminded students of the purpose for learning and reviewed the elementary of plot; “We do” when the students practiced, as a class, identifying and describing the elements of plot with three Pixar short movies; “You do” when students took a short assessment to demonstrate their knowledge of plot.
- During the “We do”; I measured your class at 95% Time on Task. The students really enjoyed the Pixar shorts.

#### Coaching

- Continue to allow student voice and choice in the instructional process. This really helped create ‘buy in’ when the new attention getter.
- Consider trying a cooperative learning structure or a Total Participation Technique to engage students in higher order thinking while working productively with a peer. The goal might be to first, engage the quieter students in the room to share their ideas and then secondly, to channel the vocal students to participate at the most appropriate times.
- Consider increasing the frequency of questions to be answered student-to-student; this increases the opportunity for students to positively interact while using their academic language.

Thank you!



Mr. David Wolff, ED. S., M.ED.

Assistant Professor

507-589-5633 • [Dwolff@winona.edu](mailto:Dwolff@winona.edu) • 1926 Collegeview Rd E, Rochester, MN 55904 • Winona State University