

Learning Context

You will be writing this portion in narrative (paragraph) form. *IF you are in ED 200, choose one of the classrooms you are observing.*

- Describe the general socio-economic status of the community where your school is located and draw inferences from this about the possible impact of this on your students' learning in general as you teach this unit.
- Describe the school, including its age and physical appearance; number of students; number of teachers; support personnel; administration; student to teacher ratio; media and educational resources (e.g., computer lab, library, teacher resource room); parent involvement; enrichment activities; sports; and extracurricular activities.
- How might the school as you have described it above, affect the learning of the students in any way, positive or negative.
- What is the composition of your students in the classroom?
- How many students are in the classroom?
- What are the genders by number?
- Do you have any that are repeating the grade?
- What is the ethnicity breakdown of the students?
- Do you have a significant number of disadvantaged students in your classroom?
- Do you have special needs learners (LD, ADHD, autistic, etc.)? If so, how many, and what are the IEPs (if any) for these students? How will these student characteristics and the dynamics of the classroom affect the possible learning outcomes during the instruction?
- What is the physical environment of the classroom and how will that affect the instruction?
- How is the room arranged, and would you rearrange to accommodate the instruction? Why do you think the new configuration would work better?
- How about the lighting, the room temperature, and the resources available? How will this affect the performance of the teaching? Will any of this affect the instruction and/or the student learning outcomes? Does the room arrangement allow you the freedom to do grouping if necessary?
- What is the school schedule during the teaching of the unit? For example, are there any interruptions of the instruction by recess, or lunch, or students who are taken from the room for special resource learning during the instruction of the unit time? How will any of this affect the learning outcomes?

Using all of this information, draw conclusions on how the effectiveness of teaching will happen in this school, in this classroom, with these students. These should be your concluding statements.