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EDSE 4600-101: Directed Student Teaching

Supervisor: Mr. Robert Crain

Reflection of September 14th Lesson

On September 14th, I delivered a lesson on the Civil War that was observed during my second block at Byrnes High School.

The lesson progressed smoothly. The class behavior was outstanding. One issue occurred when the video that was embedded in my slide show would not play, but this did not lead to a setback. The students began with an interactive activity. One thing that I believe that I could fix with this activity is that I could assign them specific battles instead of just letting the students select the battles on their own. This will help with the timing. I may also want to show them an example of how I want them to do the assignment. There were several questions as to how to do the assignment. This means that I did not clearly state and explain how to complete the assignment.

The students were given guided notes. One thing that I would like to alter in this aspect of the lesson is that I need to change the notes in two parts. The first part is, I would like to make sure they are taking sufficient notes on their own. The second thing that I would like to change is there was a chart that I had the students copy. There was not enough time for this, and this caused my pacing to become off. Next time, I would like to include the chart in the notes and have them fill in the information on the battles rather than copy he entire chart.

Another thing that I can improve on in my lesson is the content. Some of my content was slightly off. Mr. Crain and myself had this discussion following the correction, and he even

allowed me to correct the information for the students. This is something that should not happen as a professional. It is my job to correctly deliver the information to the students and I will ensure that this does not happen again.

The learning objective for the students was to be able to answer how the discrepancies between the North and the South impacted the Civil War. The final assessment given to the students was a PowerPoint. On the final slide, students answer five assessment questions that ties into this learning objective. The assessment revealed that almost every student understood the differences between the North and the South and how it impacted the war. Some of the students mixed up the answers and some did not answer the question in enough details. I think that this can be fixed by more thorough explanation of the assessment. For example, next time I need to ask students to provide x number of advantages that the North had and x number of advantages that the South had. This will give them a clear expectation. One student answer that I particularly like was to the question: "What strategic advantage did the North have over the South during the Civil War?" The student responded to the question by answering, "The North had more people, factories, transportation, and communication than the South. This helped the North because they could move information and soldiers fast."

The demographics of this class are as follows: 4 mixed students, 3 African American students, 3 Hispanic students, 1 Asian student, and 11 white students. The Socio-economic status of the students is not able to be accessed through the free and reduced lunch aspect. The gender ratio of this class is 13 males to 9 females. I think that for this specific lesson, this should be taken into effect. It is a basic stereotype that males will be more attracted to battles and war. This lesson should pique their interest just based off the topic. For females, stereotypically, this is not the case. To account for this, I included a slide about how women were specifically affected. I

included the jobs that they would work and how they helped in the war effort. I do feel that I could have included more about women in this lesson.

One thing that I feel that I did well in this lesson was the wait time. I allowed students time to get their notes and I allowed students time to answer questions. If they did not have an answer to a question I asked, I attempted to prompt them and push them towards the answer based off information that we had learned prior. One thing that I feel like I can improve on is reinforcing the essential question throughout and at the end. I do not recall restating the question and this is something that I can do to prompt students for the final assessment.