

Like Driving A Car

The following activity that reminds me of the expert blind spot is the logs that students are required to write. The assignment requires that students watch a scene that I provide and document what was observed in the scene, paying close attention to conversations, environment, people, and risks etc. This is practice for 5 weeks and then the final 5 weeks the same activity is graded. The purpose of the practice logs is to practice. Students are often worried that they will miss something, that they can write while they watch, too short of time, etc...

The expert blind spot is that I have been observing conversations and environments for well over 20 years and it is now a natural process that I can recite conversations, body language and easily notice the state of the environment upon entrance. In fact, this skill is so second nature to me that I often have to remind myself that it is not needed in my personal life.

Recognizing this, I have put several steps into their practice logs (and continue to look for more) where they can build up their skills by understanding those threshold concepts. We talk about real life and how if they had a bad experience in a restaurant, they would be able to recite the conversation and what was happening hours later to someone else....and that altercation may have only been seconds long. We break down elements that we are looking for one at a time (risk in environment, unidentified visitors, conversations, behaviours that are concerning, etc)As we move from one element to the next, students remember the previous element and often observe it in the scenario even when being asked for the next element. I am currently looking for some type of activity where I can walk them through the videos virtually and circle items...then have them do the same...

The other interesting part of this assignment is that they can use and are encouraged to use one another to remember quotes, what happened next....dialogue is recommended. This needs to be reminded throughout as students do not seem to understand the significance or that collaborative work is an essential component to log writing. This particular skill is still a work in progress...