

Teaching in lab settings
Peer-observation feedback template (with prompts for reviewers)

This template is a guide only and should be adapted to suit specific teaching and learning contexts.

Questions have been provided to assist and guide those observing the class. It may not be necessary to answer each of them. Likewise, there may be other aspects you observe that would be helpful to mention.

In conducting a class observation, it is important to remember that the main role of the peer-observer is not to 'judge' how good or poor a teacher is, but rather to provide constructive feedback on what the teacher did well (and what seemed to work well in class), as well as areas that could be improved.

Subject/class:

Date of observation:

1. Introduction/opening

Comment on how clearly the teacher introduced the topic, purpose &/or objectives of the session.

2. Demonstration

Comment on how clearly the teacher demonstrated the lesson task/activity:

- Was the demonstration organised and clear? Was it easy to follow?
- Did all students appear to be able to follow along and was there opportunity for questions?
- How well did the teacher explain how to use the equipment (if applicable)?

Comment on how well the session was organised and how clearly the teacher explained concepts/problems. (*e.g. Were subject-specific terms clarified?*)

3. Safety

Comment on how well safety issues were addressed (*e.g. were potential risks and procedures clearly explained to the class?*).

4. Student participation/interaction

Comment on the extent to which students appeared engaged in the class/activity.

- If the teacher set a group task or activity, comment on how well they facilitated this (*e.g. Were instructions clear? Did students appear engaged?*)

5. Monitoring learning & feedback

Comment on the teacher's monitoring of the lesson (*e.g. did they move around the classroom? Were all students given time and attention?*):

- How effectively did the teacher use questions to check students' understanding?
- How well did the teacher respond to students' questions?

Were there any opportunities for students to receive feedback in class? (*e.g. Did the teacher give feedback to students who volunteered responses/answers to questions? Was feedback given on activities completed in class?*)

6. Presentation & delivery

Comment on how the teacher delivered and facilitated the session. (*e.g. You may like to comment on whether you thought the teacher spoke clearly, had good eye-contact and whether they appeared confident or enthusiastic.*)

You may also like to comment here on the pace and timing of activities etc.

7. Conclusion

Comment on how effectively the teacher concluded the session (*e.g. Did they or the students give a quick overview of the key concepts covered in the session?*)

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Comment here on the overall effectiveness of the session you observed. Comment on how engaged the students appeared and highlight one or two things the teacher did well. Also, mention any areas that you think the teacher could consider for improvement.