

Artifact Reflection

Create a Map Activity

April 15-17, 2014

Artifact description:

This artifact is a multiple day lesson plan that was designed for my 7th grade geography class. The lesson tasked the students with creating a map from scratch following a list of required items. The students were then asked to develop questions for other students to practice their mapping skills.

Wisconsin Teaching Licensure Standard Alignment:

Standard 4-Instructional Strategies

The teacher understands and uses a variety of instructional strategies to encourage student's development of critical thinking, problem solving, and performance standards.

The lesson plan best aligns with standard four because it shows my knowledge of planning creative instructional activities that allow for students to excel in their own learning styles. This lesson also demonstrates my ability to provide multiple exposures to material using high level Bloom's taxonomy to meet performance standards. This lesson provides many instructional opportunities for learners of all styles because of the individualized learning format that allows students to follow their own path, as well as allows me to facilitate individual students in critical thinking and problem-solving.

UW-Platteville Knowledge, Skill, Disposition Alignment:

KSD1.f. Assesses Student Learning

The candidate understands, is committed to, and can develop assessments that are clearly stated and congruent with instructional goals. The students are aware of how they are meeting the established standards and are involved in the goal setting process.

This artifact best aligns with KSD1.f because this lesson not only provided opportunities to learn, but was also was an opportunity for me to formatively assess my students both during and at the completion of the assignment. This lesson was presented to the students in pieces, as to not overwhelm them with too many instructional goals. This allowed them to focus on one task at a time and also encouraged individual conversations on meeting the goals of the lesson and the standards set by those goals.

KSD Secondary Alignments:

KSD3.e. Demonstrates Flexibility and Responsiveness

KSD3.c. Engaging Students in Learning

KSD2.a. Creates an Environment of Respect and Report

Personal Reflection:**What I learned about teaching/learning:**

I learned that a lesson focused on individualized learning has great advantages in student learning, however, there are also some setbacks worth noting. In the middle school age group, classroom management becomes very difficult at this stage in my career. Noise volume was certainly an issue, but never to the point of preventing individuals from working. On a positive note, noise was the only issue in the classroom management spectrum. This lesson showed the mental development of my 7th graders and the range of students from concrete operational to formal operational stages. With the inherently creative aspect to this lesson, some students really struggled to develop a theme or abstractly plan their map, while other students never needed assistance and only occasionally needed to be reassured.

What I learned about myself as a prospective educator:

The experiences from writing and teaching this lesson plan have shown me that it is important to teach subjects from multiple angles and not just my preferred method of teaching. I feel this experience will affect how I connect to students of all learning styles and my ability to provide lessons that reach students of all learning preferences and abilities. This will enhance my classroom atmosphere and teaching styles for the better of all my students. This lesson also enlightened me of the difficulties of designing instruction for various age groups and learning student abilities within those age groups.