

COACHING DO'S AND DON'TS

Pre-lesson Conference

DO

- Work hard to understand the instructor's goal and plan for the lesson.
- Ask questions to help the instructor clarify their plan.
- Take the time to discuss and teach the science if necessary.
- Question aspects of lesson design you think won't result in student learning.
- Make sure you and the instructor know and agree upon your role during the lesson.

DON'T

- Tell the instructor how to teach the lesson.
- Begin the lesson observation with only a general or vague idea of an instructor's goal.
- Assume they have a deep understanding of the topic or they will brush up on it before teaching.
- Keep quiet over bad lesson design for fear of hurting and instructor's feelings.
- Assume that any action you take during a lesson will be okay with the instructor.

Observation

DO

- Focus on evidence of student understanding.
- Take copious and detailed notes of observable data (i.e. instructor's and students' words and questions)
- Listen carefully to students
- Act as a researcher during the lesson by collecting data about student learning.
- Model good listening for the group.

DON'T

- Make assumptions about student learning without evidence to back it up.
- Think you'll remember what is said, or record only your impressions instead of actual dialogue.
- Think about how you would teach the lesson differently.
- Act as an additional instructor during the lesson.
- Talk to students or chaperones while the instructor is speaking, or talk to the instructor during activities.

Post-lesson Conference

DO

- Focus on evidence of student understanding (or misunderstanding) and how it relates to goals discussed in the pre-lesson conference.
- Share your notes with the instructor
- Ground your comments in observable data.
- Share what you learned from your observations.
- Reflect how take-aways might affect future goals and instructional decisions.

DON'T

- Make evaluative comments about the instructor.
- Share your notes with anyone else!
- Assume your interpretation of what happened is the only truth or interpretation.
- Assume that the only person who is learning from this experience is the instructor.
- End the coaching session without reflecting on and voicing future goals.