Bemidji State University Center for Professional Development

Peer Observation of Teaching Form

for lecture/presentation format class sessions

This form is designed to help you systematically observe a fellow teacher's classroom performance and to provide useful feedback to them. A problem with unguided peer observations in general is a lack of reliability. The observers tend to disagree about how good the teaching they are observing is. The idea of this form is to structure your observations and thereby to increase inter-observer reliability.

Teacher's name: _____ Observer's name: _____

Course being observed: _____ Date: _____

Area of Observation	Feedback
Prepares the class for the session. In this area consider whether the instructor provides an overview of what is planned for the session, tries to focus initial student attention, announces the topic, and/or connects the class session to the previous class session. (Not every class session needs this done, especially if initial level of student focus is high.)	**1. Comments and examples:** **2. Suggestions for improvement (if any):**
Presents in an organized fashion Consider appropriate elements such as whether the instructor presents in such a manner that the students can take good notes if they wish, uses cues to emphasize more important points, clearly defines new vocabulary, summarizes from time to time, and can get back on track if student questions lead them astray. There are different ways of organizing material. Is this teacher's way clear and easy to understand?	**1. Comments and examples:** **2. Suggestions for improvement (if any):**

Pedagogical techniques While a teacher is not likely to use <u>all</u> of these techniques, consider whether they maintain eye contact with most of the students in the room; use movement, gesture and voice in a way that adds interest to the presentation; make opportunity for questions and respond well when questions are asked; and use non-hostile humor, relevant examples, or other means of increasing the interest of the presentation. If the teacher uses visual aids or teaches with technology, is it done in a way that adds to student understanding?	**1. Comments and examples:** **2. Suggestions for improvement (if any):**
Student observation skills Note the extent to which the teacher responds to the students in the class, such as clarifying points when needed, checking for comprehension, noticing student questions, and reacting to non-attending behaviors or signs of confusion. Does the teacher seem to be able to modify the presentation to take into account the audience? Does the teacher pace the presentation well?	**1. Comments and examples:** **2. Suggestions for improvement (if any):**
Class content Is the selection of course material itself appropriate in terms of depth, breadth, and complexity, and is the material accurate and well supported? Does the information presented capture core elements of the discipline?	**1. Comments and examples:** **2. Suggestions for improvement (if any):**