

1. Class Organization:

Ms. Brener has very fine organizational skills. The goal of the lesson was to examine abstracts and proposals and to learn the difference between a conference paper and a research paper. To this purpose Ms. Brener wrote the following on the blackboard:

- proposal
- 200-250 wds
- Hook
- Research question
- Thesis
- Methodology

Students began by freewriting, and a couple of students volunteered to share their freewriting. While the exercise seemed to have little connection to the lesson, it was a good way to begin the class. Any opportunity for writing is constructive. Ms. Brener quickly moved to the lesson at hand, breaking down the list on the blackboard and explaining each category in comprehensible, intelligible terms, so that each was clarified at the students' level of understanding. She explained, for example, that a hook was an interesting anecdote, and that methodology included statistics, interviews, and academic articles. The class then examined an article entitled "American Women in the Marathon." Students went around the room stating what topics they had chosen for their proposals and essays. A few students presented their introductions to the class which led to very good questions about how to execute the papers effectively, what was left out, what was confusing, and what was entailed in counterargument. These tasks were varied and fast-paced, making for a dynamic, exciting classroom experience. My one criticism with the class was that the subject matter and writing assignment centered on social science subjects rather than humanities subjects. Perhaps this is how English 210.1 is now conceived though I do feel that it should still focus on and utilize humanities examples and topics.

2. Command of Subject:

Ms. Brener knows her subject well; she has a gentle, warm, and welcoming manner. Her openness is inviting and motivating. In her questioning and instruction, she guides students to pinpoint essential elements and to probe deeply. She was very well prepared and fully absorbed in the material. She conveyed that focus to the class.

3. Student-Instructor Rapport:

I found Ms. Brener to be a gifted, talented teacher. She is respectful of her students -- very encouraging and generous. She seems flexible, and treats her students as adults. While she clearly teaches the practical techniques of writing to her students, she also encourages student input and participation. Her students were engaged and serious throughout. Ms. Brener teaches them to listen to one another and to learn from one another, an admirable goal for all our teachers.

All in all, the lesson was well prepared, and the students appeared to gain both a practical and thoughtful approach to the subject of writing.

Instructor observed Yolande Drener Course & Section English 210.1

Observer Doris Barkin Date 10/11/18

The observer did / did not receive a description of class goals & activities, a syllabus, and other relevant materials before the visit.

The instructor did / did not BEGIN class on time.

The instructor did / did not END class on time.

Number of students present at the beginning of class 18

Number of students present 30 minutes into the class 7

Please check the appropriate boxes and provide commentary & suggestions.

CLASS ORGANIZATION	Developing	Competent	Above Average	Exemplary	N/A
<i>The instructor:</i>					
Introduced class goals/plan to students;				✓	
Paced & sequenced topics appropriately;				✓	
Related lesson to previous or future lessons & assignments.				✓	

Comments & suggestions:

See attached

COMMAND OF SUBJECT	Developing	Competent	Above Average	Exemplary	N/A
Demonstrated command of subject matter & skills of the discipline;			✓		
Presented content at an appropriate level for students.				✓	

Comments & suggestions:

See attached

STUDENT-INSTRUCTOR RAPPORT	Developing	Competent	Above Average	Exemplary	N/A
Encouraged student questions;				✓	
Tried to involve all students present;				✓	
Provided opportunities for students to work together to discuss topic or practice skills;			✓		
Had the attention & cooperation of the class.			✓		

Number of students who participated in class discussion 11

Comments & suggestions:

See attached

Course Syllabus

Check that the syllabus included the following:

Course description	
Course learning outcomes	
Office hours & contact information	
Clear explanation of course requirements & determination of final grade	
Clear & comprehensive policies on punctuality, attendance, late work, etc.	
List of assignments and due dates	
Course content & outline	
Required statement on academic integrity	✓

Comments & suggestions:

Overall comments or summary remarks (optional):

This class was satisfactory ~~unsatisfactory~~ ~~approaching standards~~

Signature of observer _____

Jois Paulin

Date 10/24/18

Signature of observee _____

Date _____

Post-Observation Conference (or waiver)

Date _____

Comments:

Signature of observer _____

Date _____

Signature of observee _____

Date _____