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Pre-Observation Questions for a Grade 9 Language Arts class

This is an example of the printed format for formal observations. Please note that suggested questions are merely that-suggestions. You are better able to make judgments concerning the questions needed for both Pre- and Post-observations. It is important to type all questions and answers given.

When would you like me to observe you?

I think my "D" Block This class needs to be constantly reminded class would be best because they are a little more difficult to motivate.

Can you tell me something about this class?

Well, I have 30 students, though usually 25 show up. I have 6 repeaters, and 4 of them are very willing to learn and participate. The remainder of the students are level 3 which is below college prep. This class is called Work Readiness. Some don't even bring pencils to class. Some prefer to put their heads down on the desk.

What material will you be covering?

I want to introduce the class to Richard Wright, a Black writer who was instrumental in opening the door for Black writers. The short story is an excerpt from his autobiography entitled "Black Boy." I want them to find out about the man who had tremendous talent and courage as all "firsts" do.

What materials will you use?

I have accumulated information from the Internet and each student will get a packet on Richard Wright. I will also give them a list of questions and I want them to hunt for the information. Students will also have the text to later read the story. The students will be working in teams with the worksheet.

Is there anything else I should know about the lesson?

The follow up is reading the story of Black Boy and discussing the motivation of Richard Wright against all odds including the discouragement that his family showed about his writing. I want my students to understand that many people lack the encouragement they should get, but they succeed.