May 23 at 2:03pm

Maria:

Your mock lesson presentation was extremely polished, professional, and engaging and so clever.

It was clear that you put a great deal of thought and creativity into both the instructional design and the presentation format itself.

I especially appreciated how you incorporated the technology tools and apps from your tech course to create a lesson that felt modern, interactive, and visually engaging. Your transitions, graphics, layout, and organization all contributed to a very smooth and professional presentation experience.

One of the strongest aspects of your lesson was the relevance and practicality of the topic. Teaching business cultural misunderstandings is incredibly valuable for English learners, especially in professional and corporate settings where communication styles and cultural expectations can significantly impact relationships and workplace success.

Your focus from your lesson plan on direct versus indirect communication, workplace hierarchy, relationship building, and cultural assumptions created opportunities for students to think critically about real-world intercultural communication.

I also appreciated how you balanced information with student interaction. The discussion questions, skit activities, and reflective prompts encouraged active participation and helped students move beyond simply receiving information to actually applying and analyzing it.

The pair activities and role-play scenarios were especially effective because they allowed students (you in this sense) to practice communication strategies in meaningful contexts. Those activities would be very beneficial for building confidence and intercultural awareness in ESL learners.

Your delivery throughout the presentation was also very strong. You communicated clearly, confidently, and professionally while maintaining an approachable and welcoming tone. Your pacing and explanations made the lesson easy to follow, offering a model for others to follow for example, and your enthusiasm for the topic helped maintain engagement throughout the presentation.

I also want to commend you for intentionally keeping the lesson focused and manageable within the time constraints. Even though the topic itself is broad and complex, you did an excellent job selecting key concepts and presenting them in a concise yet meaningful way. The visuals and structure helped support understanding without overwhelming the audience.

This was an excellent example of a culturally relevant TESOL lesson that connected language learning with authentic real-world communication skills.

Your thoughtful use of technology, interactive elements, and culturally responsive discussion questions demonstrated strong instructional planning and professionalism.

This practice experience clearly highlighted your ability to create engaging, reflective, and applicable learning experiences for adult ESL learners.

Excellent work!

- Dr. Kimberly Persiani

May 24 at 5:53pm

Maria:

You did a great job of showing awareness of culturally responsive teaching practices and the importance of teacher student relationships in creating meaningful learning experiences. One of the strongest aspects of your reflection is your focus on rapport and human connection as central components of effective teaching.

Your observations about Ms. Bruski's conversations with students before class and her awareness of their interests showed careful attention to how culturally responsive educators create welcoming and supportive learning environments. Your connection to the Prezi principles, Katherine Carlton's ideas, and Steve Pemberton's Ted Talk added depth to your analysis and demonstrated strong integration of course concepts.

You also did an excellent job describing how the teacher balanced relationship building with academic rigor and exam preparation. The use of Google Docs, previous IB exam questions, and sample responses showed thoughtful lesson organization and clear

attention to supporting student success. I especially appreciated your insight that providing the materials after discussion encouraged stronger engagement and participation because students had to think critically and contribute ideas before relying on the provided examples.

Another strength of your submission is your honest and reflective analysis of the card game activity. Rather than simply identifying it as unsuccessful, you thoughtfully considered how cultural familiarity can affect participation and comprehension in classroom activities. Your discussion demonstrated solid cultural awareness and highlighted the importance of selecting activities that align with students' backgrounds and experiences. Your personal connection comparing your children's experiences in the United States and Korea added meaningful perspective to your reflection.

Your observations about learner engagement and classroom discussion were also very strong. You clearly recognized how the students' maturity, motivation, and upcoming IB exams contributed to the focused classroom atmosphere.

In addition, your discussion of how literary analysis encouraged students to connect themes to their own funds of knowledge demonstrated a strong understanding of culturally relevant pedagogy and student centered discussion.

One particularly strong insight was your recognition that culturally relevant teaching can occur through the way a teacher facilitates discussion, supports students academically, and creates space for multiple perspectives, even within highly academic content. Your reflection on how Ms. Bruski encouraged students to consider viewpoints beyond their own showed thoughtful observation and understanding of inclusive teaching practices.

- Dr. Kimberly Persiani