

Jadynn Flowers

Observation II

Professor Ricardo Pierre-Louis had an interesting focal point in his classroom that I really found myself relating to. He thrived with many love and logic concepts, valuing establishing relationships with his students that provide a sense of belonging, safety, and relaxation. He goes as far as having them call him by his first name, seemingly shrugging off the need for formalities and further wanting to deepen the 'professional friendships' he was establishing. The overall atmosphere felt very 'give and take.' One thing I personally noticed is he seemed to have a close enough relationship with at least a couple of his students that he could tease them a little. Teasing and sarcasm can be used as a humor tool and I've seen them efficiently keep students engaged, but they should always be used with a measure of caution, as saying something too harsh/sarcastic or teasing a student who is in a poor mood can cause them to shut down for the day or even send them many steps backwards in their attitude towards the teacher in question.

For his procedures, he made sure to tell me that he took attendance immediately to keep organized not only in his lessons, but also with the office so no one would worry about the whereabouts of the students. He started the lesson of the day I observed with casually chatting with his students and transitioning into having them play their stock market game for the first 5-10 minutes or so. The game was an ongoing activity of the students basically practicing buying and selling stocks with the same stats as real life but without using any actual money. At the end of the semester they would review how much money they earned/lost and what they could do with it.

After they finished their opening activity, Ricardo had them get read into their groups to present their research on personal finance topics. What I found the most interesting is he involved not only group work, but turned it into a movement activity by having them go into the hall to present. Bismarck High School has many levels, and they used two or three levels of the school to hang their posters for passersby to see and then presented their information.

Overall, I really enjoyed my experience with Ricardo. He gave me many good vibes and ideas of what to do in a secondary classroom, especially as a young teacher. My age could somewhat be used to my advantage in being able to relate to my students, but as with everything, I would be sure to maintain a proper balance and not allow any of my relationships with my students to become unprofessional in any way. I also liked his movements ideas, and will keep said activities and transitions in mind when thinking of how to keep my own students engaged.