

ENGL 600

Internship in the College Teaching of English



Northern Illinois
University

Teaching Demo

Description

The teaching demo is an informal opportunity to get used to teaching in front of people before the semester starts. You'll choose an interactive lesson you plan to use during the first week of class, and you'll "teach" that lesson to a small group of peers and experienced teachers. Please plan for activities that are around 15 minutes in length. Do not go over 20 minutes to ensure there is plenty of time for discussion.

Requirements

Use a Real Lesson

Please choose a lesson that you intend to use during Week 1 of ENGL 103. It can be something adapted from ideas you got from Orientation or something you've come up with on your own.

Be Interactive

Most lessons in ENGL 103 should involve interactive elements, such as students doing group work and/or working on their own and sharing. The lesson you choose for your demo should involve this kind of interaction: Class discussions, small group activities, making things, practice, etc. are encouraged as part of your lesson.

Make Appropriate Materials

Make the materials you plan to use along with the lesson for your class. This may include things like handouts, PowerPoints, videos, example texts, etc. Whatever you plan to use during class time should be used during the demo.

Consider Your Goals

Lessons should not be arbitrary. Think carefully about what you want your students to learn from the lesson and how they'll leave with those appropriate take-aways. In other words, what are the goals of the activity, and how does the activity meet those goals?

Get Feedback

The purpose of the demo is to try things out and then change based on what you've learned. Listen to your audience's feedback and consider it carefully. Then adjust your lesson appropriately.

Practical Concerns

Time Things Out

You should aim for a lesson that's around 15 minutes. We will stop you at 20 minutes to leave time for discussion. Practice your lesson several times in advance to make sure you're not hitting that 20-minute cap.

Practice, Revise, Repeat

You will have an opportunity to bounce ideas off of us and your peers, and you'll have an opportunity to run through your teaching demo in small groups. Please listen to the feedback you get at the time and revise based on it. Consider this demo a work in progress even on the "official" day.

Important Dates & Times

- **Tuesday, August 20th:**
 - Teaching Demo Work Time
- **Wednesday, August 21st:**
 - Teaching Demo Peer Revision
 - Teaching Demo Practice with Peers
- **Thursday, August 22nd:**
 - Teaching Demo Final Feedback
- **Friday, August 23rd:**
 - Teaching Demos!

Don't Be Nervous!

We're all here to help, and we're all in the process of learning. It's okay to make mistakes at any stage of the process, even when you get in front of your students!