

COMS 130 GTA Observation

Instructor: Cecilee Li
Class: COMS 130

Observer: Talya Slaw
Topic: Outlines

Date: 2/14/20

I. Command of Subject/Choice of Content

- clearly identifies key concepts
- presents information with minimal use of notes
- provides student-centered examples
- defines new or unfamiliar terms
- goes beyond textbook material, when relevant
- encourages students to think critically
- answers student questions knowledgeably
- strives to maintain student interest throughout the lesson

Comments:

Cecilee clearly knows the course material and spoke on the subject of outlining and citations without notes. Cecilee has several activities and discussion questions prepared that reinforce the content and help students get a better and more memorable grasp of the topic.

Cecilee was great at answering student questions as well. I would recommend trying to get the students a bit more involved in the more “lecture-y” parts of the day by perhaps asking for examples, just to keep the students engaged in between activities.

II. Structure/Management of the Lesson

- Makes the agenda for the day clear
- Sequences parts of the lesson logically
- Uses signposts, transitions, and internal summaries to help students manage information
- Includes a variety of elements (i.e., not just lecture)
- Provides clear directions for activities
- Makes the central point of activities (if applicable) clear in the debriefing
- Reinforces central idea of the lesson
- Manages time effectively

Comments:

Cecilee does a great job managing time throughout the lesson and moving through more lecture/discussion parts to small group activities. She also does a great job de-briefing the activities. Cecilee has her students do a small-group scrambled outline activity, then de-briefs altogether so they can go through the correct outline and what the example outlines strengths and weaknesses are. She then has a few handouts about outlining before moving on to discussing citations. I would recommend trying to make the transitions between de-briefing and lecture/discussion a bit clearer – sometimes the students seemed like they were losing focus because they didn’t know they had moved from the activity back to the lecture. Cecilee could also do a de-brief at the end of class but does do a great job tying the content to what they will cover on Monday.

III. Instructional Communication

- shows interest in the subject matter and in students
- uses students’ first names

- is receptive to students' views
- manages discussion effectively (if discussion is part of the lesson)
- displays an interest in student learning
- deals with disruptive or dominating students effectively (if applicable)
- models strong public speaking skills

Comments:

Cecilee modeled strong public speaking skills to her students. Cecilee is so joyful while teaching that it clearly brightens students' moods. She is very positive and encourages students to think positively by saying things like "Every day is an opportunity to learn more about each other" at the start of the question of the day or "We get to listen to 1 more speech!" before a last student does their introductory speech. She clearly knew the student's names and had created a personable environment in which her students felt comfortable participating. Further, she made sure to check in on each group during the activity.

IV. Professionalism

- arrives on time
- begins class on time
- professional attire and demeanor (i.e., looks like a teacher, not a student)
- well-prepared for class

Comments:

Cecilee arrived to class early to make sure everything was set up and ready to go. She was professional in manner and appearance, all of which established her credibility. It was clear there was a lesson plan being followed and then Cecilee was well-prepared.

Observation Summary:

Overall, Cecilee did an excellent job. She is personable with her students and demonstrated a command of the topic. Cecilee was highly prepared and implemented several activities to improve student learning.



Instructor's Signature/Date



02/14/2020

Observer's Signature/Date