9.1W: Ability to support and reinforce the instruction of students in writing following written and oral lesson plans developed by licensed teachers.

9.2W: Ability to utilize effective developmental, age-appropriate, and culturally sensitive instructional strategies in writing that supports the instruction of licensed teachers.

Painting a Picture With Words

Strategy Practice Activity

Imagine you are a paraprofessional working in Mr. Lee’s high school composition class. Rhonda is a sophomore in this class. She is bright and outspoken, but she can be somewhat stubborn. Today, students in Mr. Lee’s class are revising their narratives of a family event. The teacher has asked you to help Rhonda with revisions to her paper about a hilarious incident involving a cooking disaster at Thanksgiving. You have read Rhonda’s paper, and having talked with Mr. Lee, you both feel her paper is lacking detail. However, Rhonda sees no point in revising because she says, “I can’t say it any better. That is exactly how it happened, and that is exactly how I want to say it!” You want to help Rhonda discover for herself that her writing could be made stronger, but you don’t want to tell her exactly what is missing. Consider the following options. How would you help Rhonda with the revision process?

1. Read Rhonda’s narrative account of the events that took place on Thanksgiving to your self. Recite to her, using your own words, what you understand about the event based on her information. Add your own assumptions where details have been left out. Rhonda will find that you don’t understand exactly what happened, and you can begin talk about revisions.

2. Create questions that you as a reader have after reading Rhonda’s paper. Rhonda can think about these questions and realize that they are not answered in her paper. For example: What did Grandma do when she realized the turkey was on fire? What did the flames look like? What were the other family members’ reactions? How was the fire put out? Was there any damage to the kitchen?

3. Turn revising into a game. Tell Rhonda you have identified three sections of her paper that could use some revising. Ask her to read through her paper and guess which sections they are. Then tell why each of you chose the sections you did, and discuss how they could be revised.

4. How else could you help Rhonda with the revisions of her paper?

Respond on pages 2 - 4.
Your Instructional Response

Considering the strategy covered in this lesson, choose one of the options provided in the above scenario. Then, using this strategy, respond to the above scenario by answering the following questions.

1. **Consider the instructional objective:** Describe the instructional objective for this/these student(s)?

2. **Consider the student(s):** What do you know about the target student(s) that will increase your likelihood of helping him/her/them be successful at completing this exercise?

3. **Consider the available materials:** What applicable materials are available for you and the student to use?

4. **Consider the time that is available:** Describe the time limitations. How much time will it take to be successful in this activity? Is this an activity that will occur once, or will it be reinforced and developed at perhaps regular intervals over a period of time? If so, over what period?
Consider the instructional strategy:

5. Which of the above options did you choose? What was your reasoning for choosing this option over the other options?

6. Would you have this/these student(s) do this activity independently, with another student, within a small group, or with you (one-on-one)? What is the reasoning for this?

7. Where is the best location for this student to do this activity (i.e., apart from other students, with other students, etc.). Why?

8. How does this activity directly support the instructional objective?
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9. Imagine that you need to tell another paraprofessional what they need to do to ensure that the student(s) is/are successful with this activity. Describe in detail, step by step, how this paraprofessional should carry out this instructional strategy in accordance with your directions.