

Assignment for visiting each other; plus a presentation:

Arrange to visit the discussion section of a TA who is in Math 589. The easiest way to carry out this assignment is to form a pair to watch each other (with possibly a third person in the group who isn't currently teaching.)

The purpose of these visits is to improve your own teaching and to support others in improving their teaching. You will then each give a 5-minute presentation in Math 589 about what you observed and learned during these visits. Or you can present as a group with approximately 5 minutes per person involved.

For those who are not currently teaching: I recommend that you find a pair and watch both of them and present with them.

Sign up with me (by email or in class) for a date to present your visits in class. Tuesdays from 9/29 forward are available.

As with the first set of visits, you should each prepare a short (1 page) written reaction to watching the TA session. Turn in this page on the day you give your presentation. Use the questions below and the TA teaching evaluation form as possible prompts for these reactions and for your presentations.

During the visit, watch for ways that students are engaged in active learning. Again choose at least one item from your review that you will use to improve your own teaching. Explain in a few sentences how you plan to implement this improvement in your own teaching.

Additional review questions:

1. Comment on classroom teaching. Is the pace and difficulty of material appropriate to the course? Is the lecture/discussion well structured? Are explanations clear? Does the instructor make effective use of the blackboard and/or other instructional media? Were the goals of the class session clearly articulated? Did the class meeting accomplish those goals?

2. Comment on classroom atmosphere/general performance. Was the instructor on time? Was the session well attended? Was the instructor enthusiastic? Did he or she have good rapport with the students, treating them respectfully and encouraging their participation? Were the students engaged? Did they ask questions at a level appropriate to the class format (i.e. lecture or discussion)? Was the climate in the classroom conducive to learning?

3. What feedback do you plan to give the instructor on the basis of your observation? What are some of the particular strengths of the teaching style? What specific recommendations do you plan to make with respect to classroom performance?