

Paul Verstraete
Exit Performance Description
April 16, 2007

Submitted by Carol Steele

Paul began the internship year with a good command of history; he has continued to expand his knowledge base all during his intern year. He has made good progress in presenting material in ways that are engaging and memorable to students. He presents manageable amounts of information, providing guidance and structure to lead students through it. He plans higher level thinking opportunities so students can digest and assimilate information and apply it to various scenarios. He also chooses material that reveals to students the complexity of issues and the different point of view that various groups hold about important issues.

Paul has learned many management skills during the internship year. He has built better relationships with students each passing month. He has overcome his early nervousness and become much more confident and direct with students. He has learned to interact cordially and professionally with students without allowing their comments to deflect him from the important points of the lesson. He has developed the ability to assess informally how well students understand the subject at hand and, when appropriate, to make adaptations to speed, slow or change the lesson in response to the needs of his students.

Paul's lesson plans are strong and he can judge fairly accurately how much time to allow for various activities. He is better able to foresee and prevent problems with curriculum or instruction than he was at the beginning of the year. He uses time wisely and plans several activities for each block so that instructional time is not wasted.

Paul's skill with technology is extremely good. He has created fact-filled, well-organized Power Point presentations on a number of topics. Over the course of the internship year he has also learned to use technology more effectively. For instance, at first he had students take traditional notes from slides. Later, he learned to use guided notes, group discussions and other ways of interacting with the material in a variety of ways which led to more enthusiasm from students and also helped them to do more critical thinking.

Paul values the input of more experienced teachers and has learned to ask for and utilize their suggestions. He is able to spot weaknesses in his instruction and takes steps to improve his teaching. He has also learned to confer successfully with parents even when they are difficult to deal with.

Two of Paul's greatest strengths are perseverance and determination. He is not a person who gives up even when challenges arise. He wants to be a good teacher and bends a steady effort toward constant improvement. In addition, he clearly enjoys his subject matter and that enthusiasm contributes to his effectiveness.

Submitted by Carol Steele, Field Instructor

Carol Steele

Mentor

Catherine Logsdon

Intern

Paul Verstraete