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ENGL 388V

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Observation Reflection: Being Observed

I loved having a chance to show my classroom to another teaching assistant. I was eager both to be observed and observe someone else because I've always been interested in the ways that each UTA experience differs. Jenna came to observe me on a good day: I had a small activity to present to the class that involved giving a little bit of lecture.

Catherine and I had a crisis moment on the day of my observation: the computer in our classroom stopped working right before class started. We had to scramble to find another room in the building that was empty and had a working computer. Jenna came in just in time for us to get settled into another classroom. She didn't get to see the way we usually operate because this temporary classroom's desks were arranged in rows instead of a rectangle. I wasn't used to presenting to such a large classroom with students scattered all over, but my students and I worked just as well in that room as we would have in the other room. Catherine delivered administrative announcements, I presented my activity that involved comparing advertisements from different eras, and then we moved into dividing groups up for the next assignment. That assignment involved a group presentation. I sat down with Jenna and answered specific questions about my classroom environment with her while the class discussed their project topics.

In ENGL388V last year, the weekly meetings allowed for the teaching assistants to establish relationships with each other. Jenna and I were both in that class and section last year, so I wasn't nervous about having her as an observer. I knew that she was there to learn from me as much as I would be in her classroom to learn from her the next week. I enjoyed the experience of observing and being observed, and I look forward to learning more about different teaching assistant roles in the future.