

Teacher to Teacher

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Effective Reflective Logs

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In ABE programs throughout Ohio, teachers strive to provide their students with the best possible classroom experience. The following are samples from Warren City Schools ABE. This program uses Reflective Logs as a way of providing insight to students and staff as to the effectiveness of each lesson.

We began using Reflective Logs as an evaluation tool for the teacher, but it soon became evident that the students were providing all kinds of insightful feedback, both on the effectiveness of the lesson as well as their previous background in school and learning experience. Since we wanted an easy, usable log, we developed a simple questionnaire both for the students and the instructor.

Instructor:

1. What did I do most effectively?
2. What could I improve upon the next time?
3. In general, how did the students react to the lesson?

Student:

1. What was the most interesting part of the lesson?
2. What one thing did I learn that I didn't know before?
3. How could I use this info in my life and/or future learning?
4. What could I have done to learn this material better?

Initially, the students' comments were short—one or two words. As we began to use the Reflective Logs more regularly, each individual began to provide lengthier comments and more insightful information. The outcome has been that both staff and students are more aware of improvements. The technique has helped our program move in the direction of continuing to provide all students with more ownership of their individual goals and learning plans.

An added bonus was that the staff began to refine and hone each lesson to meet student needs more effectively. The immediate ability to critique and put on paper ideas that came out of the lesson helps our staff improve each lesson for the next time. The written log has helped staff to develop interesting and pertinent lesson plans for other staff members to use. All in all, this has been a simple, effective tool for our program.

Outcomes:	To better know the student and to allow the student to become more self-aware of his/her progress
Standard:	Goal Setting
Program Type:	ABE, GED, Family Literacy
Learner Level:	1-6
Time Frame:	10 minutes

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Instructor Reflective Log

Please take a couple of minutes and think about what you have taught.

Lesson _____ Date _____

1. What did I do most effectively?

2. What could I improve upon the next time?

3. How did the students, in general, react to the lesson?

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Student Reflective Log

Please take a couple of minutes and think about what you have learned.

Lesson _____ Date _____

1. What was the most interesting part of the lesson?

2. What one thing did I learn that I didn't know before?

3. How could I use this info in my life and/or future learning?

4. What could I have done to learn this material better?
