

Ilana Gleicher-Bloom
Video Observation

1. Whom did you invite to this rehearsal and why?
I watched the video and discussed it with 2 other MTEI'ers, Sara and Daniel. I do not have a staff that I could watch this with, and so it made sense for us to watch it together.
2. Describe what you actually did—did you modify this plan or follow it pretty closely?
We followed the plan. We introduced the video to each other, picked one, watched it, gathered our observations, discussed them, re-watched it, gathered the next round of observations, and spoke about our experiences.
3. Did you use the scripted pieces that we provided? What other prompts did you come up with?
We took turns using the scripted pieces, and we modified when we felt it made sense for our group. A few times, I offered commentary on how I was feeling about the process of watching the video together.
4. What did you learn from doing this? Were there parts of this that felt especially unnatural or difficult?
I think it's always beneficial to practice observing a class, and using observation language. I realized that it's difficult for me to really see what's going on in the classroom, and notice details, in the first viewing. In the second viewing, I was able to focus on details, because I already knew what was going to happen, and I can focus on one part of the lesson. I realized that I need to go into an observation trying to focus on one specific element of the lesson, because I get lost trying to pay attention to everything, and often end up writing down every word being said, instead of actually watching the lesson. It was also difficult that we did not have context for the video. We did not know how often this class met, if they always had this teacher, why there were so many adults in the room, how long they had been learning the material, etc.
5. Were there parts of this that felt particularly easy or familiar?
I am getting used to observation language, and using that language with other MTEI'ers felt familiar, and made me excited to do more at the seminar!

6. What do you think it will be like to do this with a larger group? Other thoughts?

A larger group will have more diverse opinions, and there's a better chance of someone noticing something that I had not noticed.