

Rehearsing Facilitation of Video Investigation

I invited 4 Tanach teachers to work with me on this video investigation. I told them what the goals are and explain that this was while it is my assignment for my class, it is a great video that they can learn a lot from. One of them works a lot with Chavruta study, One does it but not often and the other two are not doing it at all. My goal was to practice descriptive, interpretive and evaluative statements, as well as exposing the teachers to this method of teaching and help better their teaching of Tanach.

Before showing the video I asked the teachers to describe in writing everything they saw. I showed the video twice because the teachers were so much “into the video” that they forgot to write what they saw. After the second showing, each one of us read one of the statement she wrote. We wrote it on big post it notes and have all the statements all over the room.

Next we read each statement and determine if it was description of what they saw or interpretation or evaluation of it. Not like the first time when I practice video investigation (with two other MTEI members), this time we had more evaluation and interpretation of the action of students and teachers in the video. We took long time to ask ourselves how to reframe our statements so they will be descriptives.

What made me happy was that the more we study the video and actually describe the learning we saw, the more the teachers wanted to practice it in their classrooms because they saw the benefits of that.

The art of being descriptive and not evaluative is not easy, but important for professional growth. At times I think that we don't have the time for that during the school year, but we do! We just need to value the importance of the process.