Penina Weber PEP I Fall 2011

Moriah – Observation #1

1. Details and Reactions to Pre-Observation Conference

We reviewed the goals of the lesson, expectations of the observation, discussed the seating chart and needs/expectations of specific students.

2. Brief overview of lesson

Using pointed questions and pictures on the SmartBoard, we highlighted and discussed the differences between the Menorah in the Beit HaMikdash and the Chanukiyah that we light on Chanukah, from historical, halachic, and philosophical perspectives.

3. Details and Reactions to Post-Observation Conference

I was disappointed to hear that I did not sufficiently address all students’ questions/ comments. I was glad that my opening “hook” was engaging and served as a pre-assessment to gauge their understanding of the topic, proving that we indeed needed to clarify it.

4. Objectively Recorded Data

I did not hear some students’ questions, and while I responded well to some students’ comments, I did not properly address others’ raised hands.

5. What did you learn/discover about yourself and your students from this lesson and subsequent discussion?

In an effort to maximize teaching time, I stunted students’ questions, which may actually be a better way for them to learn, and for me to assess their understanding and personal reflections on the subject matter.

Though I intended the lesson to be interactive, I “lectured” more than I expected, and more than I think is ideal.

6. How do you plan to build on this discovery to help you grow as a teacher?

I hope to be more attuned to students’ questions, both on-topic and off. I want to improve at conveying the message that what they have to say is important to the lesson, not only what ***I*** say.

I want to design learning activities and assessments which give them more of a chance to speak and lead.

7. How do you plan to build on what you learned in your next lesson?

I need to schedule time in the lesson for questions so that I won’t feel pressured and therefore avoid student questions. I will give post-it notes for them to write questions during the lesson so they can release it and be able to focus on the rest of the lesson.

I should build-in more methods for differentiation to reach more students, in both activities and assessments.