Penina Weber PEP I Fall 2011

Moriah – Observation #2

1. Details and Reactions to Pre-Observation Conference

We briefly reviewed what the lesson would be about and the methods used.

2. Brief overview of lesson

Review of the blessings for lighting Chanukah candles; listen to recording, fill-in blanks, and after a related story, write take-away thoughts.

3. Details and Reactions to Post-Observation Conference

I was surprised that I once again did not hear, or chose to ignore, students’ inappropriate questions.

4. Objectively Recorded Data

Several students were off-task most of the time; students were more roudy than usual.

When I waited for quiet, they quieted down; when I demanded it, it took longer.

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

Even bright and focused students, who usually enjoy interactive lessons, can be uninterested.

A few moments waiting for silence feels more than it really is.

A student with an unanswered question or misunderstood detail can be distracted from the rest of the lesson.

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

I will try to focus better on scanning ALL students’ attention levels and re-engaging them in the lesson; never assume that anyone is or is not listening.

I hope to mature by realizing that a few moments of sacrificed teaching time can actually yield better learning later on.

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

I plan to wait more for quiet, not demand it as much.

I plan to give out note-paper and later collect it, for students to write their questions during the lesson without interrupting, and feel their questions are important to me (they are!).