

Reflecting on Practice: Designing a Lesson
Teaching episode
Wednesday/Thursday

By 1:00 pm on Tuesday please send an electronic copy of the lesson to Gail and Carol so it can be copied for the observers the next day. (burrill@msu.edu, chattan@comcast.net)

For Wednesday, choose a 15 to 20 minute segment of your lesson that one of you will present to the group. You might want to give a quick overview of the parts that are missing so that everyone understands the larger picture for the lesson. Be sure you have all the supplies and equipment (including flip charts, markers, etc.) necessary for the lesson ready to go as time is very limited, and we need to be pretty organized to make this work.

Two groups will present on Wednesday and two groups on Thursday. The groups that are presenting that day will serve as "official" observers for the lessons along with Aki, Blake or Gail. The other two groups will be the "students" for the lesson - they do not have to behave like students but should engage in the mathematics and the tasks as instructed by the teacher.

As observers you should use the protocol given to you and reflect on the main question of how the goal is related to the activity. The focus of the observations should be on the lesson designed by the group and how it unfolds – remember the teacher is only carrying out the plan as a representative of the entire group. You will be given the lesson plan as a resource so you can see how the lesson should unfold. You may also want to have individual group members each take a specific lens for the observation: for example, evidence of student understanding and thinking; what kinds of questions students are asking; the questions being asked in the lesson and what kind of responses they elicit; the timing of the lesson flow- or related to a specific issue that arose during the lesson design process and you are looking for feedback on that particular issue.

After the teaching segment, a short debrief of the lesson will take place led by the consultant where the teacher and the lesson designers will begin the process and at the end the "students" can add their thoughts.

Have fun!