

CONTEXT PARAGRAPH:

The context paragraph gives the third party reader information about the teacher, students, unit of study and any special factors regarding the lesson or environment.

A context paragraph contains:

School name, date, and start/end time of the observation [as a shell or in the paragraph]

Teacher:

Observation Date:

Observer:

Observation Time:

School:

Conference Date:

Subject/Grade:

Information about the teacher: years teaching, years assigned at the school, years teaching the subject, other specific duties that might relate to the observed class

Information about the students: number, gender, racial make-up, level, special needs, etc.

The course or unit of study: what is the unit/lesson, where the students are in the unit, what came before, what will follow, is it in the MCPS curriculum

Special factors that influenced the lesson: time of day, events that occurred that day, prior or upcoming events, weather, location, etc.

Indicate whether this is an announced or unannounced observation.

Context paragraph for Mr. Banks' PE class

Teacher: Mr. Banks

Observation Date: Sept. 24, 2010

Observer: Ms. Howard

Observation Time: 11:00-11:30

School: Young Elementary School

Post Observation Conference: Sept 27, 2010

Subject/Grade: Physical Education
Grade 1

Mr. Banks is a teacher who has been teaching physical education at Young ES for three years. This is his first year teaching in two schools (Young ES and Elder ES). There were 18 students in the class: 7 boys and 11 girls (6 African American, 4 Asian, 4 Caucasian, 4 Hispanic). Two of the children have identified special needs. The class met just before the students were to go to lunch. Since it was raining, Mr. Banks had adjusted his lesson from T-ball to an indoor activity that built their proficiency of movement. This lesson was from the first unit of the MCPS Grades 1-2 curriculum. This was an unannounced observation.