

Terry Grant
Greene-Hills School K-8, Grade 8 Science

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To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Terry Grant and for the past twenty two years I have been a teacher in Bristol, Connecticut. Through the course of my career, I have taught at both the elementary and middle school levels, while also holding certificates for high school science courses and administration. As I look towards the final ten to fifteen years of my teaching career, I believe it is time to pass on what I have learned to future teachers. There may not always be a Mr. Grant in the building, but I like to believe some of the legacy I have created will continue on through what I have taught a beginning teacher.

Besides knowledge of instructional practices and student interactions, I offer a lot of insight to a beginning teacher. Following the HQI Live model of observations, I have very specific teaching points and instructional purposes in my classroom. Holding a "press conference" post observation is a fantastic method for both a student teacher and a mentor teacher to discuss the intentional moves during a lesson. This was something I learned at an optional professional development opportunity over the summer and I am always seeking new professional development opportunities to enhance my teaching practice.

I can also help a new teacher plan their lessons. All of my lesson plans follow the pacing guide as outlined by the science department as well as the targeted priority strands. I invented my own Google Forms lesson plan builder around both the identified target for the lesson and the next target in the sequence so that I always know where the lesson is and where it is going. Student norms and success criteria are used throughout my classes with a focus on student engagement. Rarely will a lesson plan feature the teacher directly teaching from the board, but rather students engaged in group talk or demonstrating their mastery of the learning target for the lesson. It is important for a beginning teacher to see this method of instruction modeled and be able to practice it. Student engagement and success criteria is at the forefront of best practices in schools and a beginning teacher would be well prepared for this instructional model after their time working with me.

Over the years I have worked on several committees and teams. Presently, I am the Greene-Hills School Gifted Coach and Science Department Coordinator. Through these roles, I work with other teachers throughout the city while also planning activities within the building. I also serve on the School Leadership Team and am an active member on our Grade 8 team. Schools are teams of people working together, whether it be teachers, administrators, parents or students. We all work together collectively to ensure that our students are successful, no exceptions.

This is what I offer to a student teacher or beginning teacher and why I should be selected for the TEAM Mentor/Coach training program.

Sincerely,
Terry Grant
Lesson Plan Rubric