

PEER OBSERVATION REFLECTION FORM

Teacher: John Preston Date: 10/24/2018

Content: Nagel on Absurdity (Intro – Life and Death)

What I'm observing for today (connected to my PD goals):

- Board work, especially as connected to
- Memory and recall
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Write down the core actions or language you observed. Be specific!

- Writes learning goal first; otherwise pre-organizes board (knowledge organization)
- Written: Plato, Aristotle, Thomas, Kant, Nietzsche, Sartre, Camus, de Beauvoir. Questions aloud regarding: Forms, telos, God, Knowledge, Nietzsche's critique of the preceding, Sartre's, Camus', de Beauvoir's respective responses to Nietzsche. Fills in board accordingly
- "Sign-posting in Nagel"; "A lot of review in Nagel"
- "That Aristotle pointed out"; "Sartre on Steroids"; "Sartre – world as contingency"; "Epistemology, like what Kant was doing in first Critique"; "Nagel – like Camus, but he denies that we live in defiance; we live in irony"; "Nagel – snooty in that, constantly, he calls back to Camus but to point out superiority"
- "Any thoughts?" as closer

➤ Summarize the 3 strengths of the lesson (be specific).

1. John gives students ample ability to recall previous material, and he has apparently gotten them to attend to it and has made it memorable and comprehensible in the first place; several students are enthusiastic to recall. Colorful examples helped (memory's being associative). He checks understanding by questioning.
2. Review of previous and new material are both very organized. A numbered grid makes the previous material's relevance to the day's topic (Nagel and living our absurd lives in irony) very clear and explicit. I.E., the scaffolding to today is robust and apparent. The students are engaged, either with John himself, the board, or their copies of the text.
3. John highlights the positive. All comments are met with a "nice," enthusiastic "yeah!" etc. He makes explicit his belief that his students have already committed to memory previous concepts through review/recall. The rare case of two talkers in the back went by without comment to avoid drawing attention to the rare negative case of behavior.