

## MTH 362 Field Experience – Reflection Guide

---

Your final grade includes service learning (field experience) component (10%). You will have to make 10 visits to a geometry classroom in Mount Pleasant High School and submit a sign-in sheet documenting dates and durations of your visits. Guidelines and schedules are posted on my website.

As your field experience should be an active one, you will reflect on your experience every day and submit two written reports as part of your evaluation (i.e. you will need to submit the sign-in sheet and two reports in order to receive the credit for the field experience).

- Keep a journal. After each visit, write a paragraph or a few sentences about your experience. Please keep in mind that *you are not evaluating* what the teacher does or doesn't do. *You are reflecting on your own experience* – what did this particular visit give me? Not every tutoring session holds something profound, but there is almost always at least one event to write about.
- There is no prescribed format for your journal. You may include intriguing mathematical ideas (geometry ideas you are not familiar with, or surprising perspectives on geometry you know), interesting or surprising student responses, stumble blocks that you were not aware of, tricks and tips you learned from the teacher that you may use in your own teaching, etc.
- Keep in mind that you are in the class to provide the service in the first place, so do not take any notes in the class and be always available to your supervising teacher. Write your reflection notes later that day.
- In your notes and reports, do not mention students' names or other identifiable information. You are not doing research - your journal is *your own* reflection on your experience, not field notes from classroom observation.
- Your ideas and entries in the journal do not have to be coherent. You will not be submitting the journals, but you will use your entries to compile the required reports.

You will compile your journal entries into a readable format and submit two reports – the first report is due by the date indicated on my website, the second report is due with your sign-in sheet. Make sure to include the following in your reports:

- Describe your typical classroom visit. Use your journal entries to provide authentic details. What did you like about it and what did you learn there?
- Did you learn any geometry knowledge for teaching? This may include
  - Content knowledge (geometry),
  - Knowledge of content and teaching (interesting methods or representations to introduce or develop geometry concepts and ideas),
  - Knowledge of content and students (typical or surprising students' responses, solutions, errors or misconceptions; stumble blocks)
- Did you act proactively? Did you do some extra work to help the teacher? Describe the situations.
- How can this experience be related to your future classroom?
- Do you have any advice for next semester's students who will be doing their field experience in a similar geometry class?
  - Are there other questions next semester's students should be asked to guide their reflections?