

Using video for evaluation and reflection.

An excellent way of gaining an insight into your professional capabilities is to film yourself teaching. Whilst this might sound intimidating it can be a way of learning more about yourself as a teacher. You could video a complete lesson, alternatively you could focus on a short episode using a particular teaching technique.

There are, of course, certain ethical issues to attend to before you film yourself teaching, not least the issue of permission from the school. Check with your geography mentor that the school gives permission for you to do this. Once you have cleared this, you need to arrange the technical resources you need to video the lesson.

The activity:

1. Arrange for someone to video you – this can be your mentor, another teacher or your tutor.
2. Select a teaching group with whom you feel comfortable rather than one that you feel is more challenging.
3. Film all or part of the lesson.
4. On your own, and as soon after the filming as possible, watch the lesson and complete a geography observation form on the lesson, just as your mentor would.
5. Be prepared to discuss the lesson/teaching episode and your evaluation of it with your mentor at a weekly meeting.

Some suggestions of aspects of your teaching that you could video so that you can analyse your teaching with your geography mentor:

- Giving an explanation of a human or physical process.
- Demonstration of a geographical technique.
- Conducting a whole class discussion.
- Asking geographical questions with the whole class – or working with a small group.
- Teaching pupils how to answer a GCSE examination question in geography.
- Debriefing a thinking skills activity.
- Using a starter activity to generate enthusiasm for a topic.

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