The Basics of Instructing and Engaging Students in Learning

Task 2

INTRODUCTION

Task 2 of the edTPA focuses on instruction. For Task 2, candidates should choose 1-2 recorded clips from the Task 1 learning segment. (Note: The length and number of recorded clips varies by handbook area.)

TIPS FOR CHOOSING RECORDED CLIPS

Just as there is no specified pedagogical approach required to be successful on Task 1 of the edTPA, there is no specific classroom management strategy required for a successful Task 2 submission. The recorded clip(s) are not intended to tell the story of the learning segment, so they do not need to be from any particular point in a particular lesson. Rather, candidates should focus on choosing clips that meet the following criteria:

1. **Demonstrate a positive classroom environment.** Many candidates and novice teachers are under the mistaken impression that a good class is a quiet class. The students sit quietly until the teacher poses a question, then several students around the room quickly raise their hands to respond to the teacher's query. It is not necessary to have a class that demonstrates this idea of "well behaved" to do well on the edTPA. Rather, consider these criteria: Does the teacher treat the students with kindness and respect? Do the students treat each other with kindness and respect? If someone causes a disruption, is it dealt with in an appropriate and respectful manner? If these criteria are met, the classroom environment is positive.

2. **Show students engaged in learning.** The recorded clip(s) chosen for edTPA submission should show the students as active participants in their own learning, rather than passive receptacles waiting to be filled with knowledge. The teacher candidate should engage with the students, asking questions to guide the students to reach higher levels of critical thinking.

3. **Include content-specific pedagogical practices as outlined in your subject-specific handbook.**

AVOIDING CONDITION CODES IN TASK 2

When candidates do not adhere to the handbook criteria, they receive a condition code rather than a score. If a candidate earns two or more condition codes in a single task, they will receive an incomplete. To avoid condition codes related to video, you should ensure the following items:

1. **Each clip should adhere to the length, file size, and file type requirements listed in the Evidence Chart in your handbook.**

2. **Each clip should be unedited.** This means that each clip will have a starting point and an ending point, with no footage removed or added in between. Recorded clips absolutely cannot be edited to remove lulls in instruction, interruptions from outside sources, or any other distractions. The only exceptions to the no-editing rule are if the audio is difficult to hear and the candidate chooses to add captions or if blurring technology must be used to eliminate the faces of students or adults for whom permission was not given to be included in the recorded submission.

3. **The candidate's face should be visible at least once in the recorded clip(s).**

4. **The minimum number of students should be visible at least once in each recorded clip.** The minimum number of students varies somewhat by handbook.

5. **The recorded clip(s) should be audible.** If portions of the clip are inaudible, candidates may use their two pages of optional supporting documents to provide a transcript, add captions to the video, or directly quote themselves or their students within their instructional commentary.

CAMERA PLACEMENT

Teacher candidates should practice recording in advance to determine the ideal camera placement. In whole-group lessons, many candidates place the camera in the back corner of the classroom. When engaging in group work, consider focusing the recording on one group at a time either by placing a stationary camera on a tripod or asking a colleague to record for you.