Minute Paper Reflection Exercise

This exercise is designed to help you interpret a question that you have recently included in a minute paper. The goal is to explore the reasons why students respond differently to certain teaching methods, and to begin to think about ways in which a greater number of students can achieve class outcomes (given their individual learning habits/patterns).

Choose one question from your minute paper. You may choose to repeat this reflection exercise with each question on the minute paper.

Minute Paper Question:
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_____________________________________________________________________

Part One: Teacher Response

1) Write down your response to the question:
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_____________________________________________________________________
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2) Write down the teaching method (e.g. varied explanations of a concept, open discussion, direct questions, critical review, demonstration of critical argument) that was used and that relates to the question:
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_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

3) Also write down what you hoped to achieve by using this teaching method:
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_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
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Part Two: Student Responses

1) Read the students’ responses to the same question you responded to, above, in Part One. Firstly, identify a typical response (one that summarises the opinions of many students). Secondly, identify an unexpected response (one that varies from the typical response or from your response in Part One). Write down the responses below and answer the questions:

   a. Typical response

   

   

   

   

   i. What does this response tell you about the extent to which the student experience matches your intended outcomes for this class?

   

   

   

   

   b. Unexpected response

   

   

   

   

   i. What does this response tell you about the extent to which the student experience matches your intended outcomes for this class?
2) Now, for each response, write down your thoughts on why these students felt this way about your teaching. That is, identify possible reasons why various students have responded differently to the same teaching method.

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3) Is there a way to teach that enables a wider range of students to achieve these outcomes? If so, what is it (to what extent is it practicable)? If not, how can you help students who have not achieved class outcomes catch up with those who have (to what extent is this practicable)?*

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* Please note that this exercise is designed to help you develop hypotheses about ways you can improve your teaching. It is not recommended that you drastically alter your teaching methods or course design until you have consulted and interpreted feedback sources gathered in different ways and over a number of semesters/years. You should keep a record of the hypotheses you develop, however, and interpret them in conjunction with your reflection on other sources of feedback (e.g. USE surveys, focus group responses, assessment results).