

Videotaping Tips for National Board Candidates

Things to keep in mind: This is a snapshot of your classroom. Assessors want to see an authentic and complete view of your classroom. They want to see the classroom climate, the children interacting and a clarification of the teacher's and students' role in your teaching setting.

1. Don't have "staged" situations.
2. Video and content must match.
3. Be sure the video supports what you say.
4. Be sure that you can hear what the children say to each other and see their faces.
5. Make sure you aren't talking too much. Assessors want to see and hear the children interacting.
6. Think about what you are wearing. The assessors aren't supposed to notice your appearance but you don't want to be distracting from the video content. Watch for clutter or mess in your shots. Remove anything from view which might distract or interfere with the message you wish to convey.
7. Always buy quality tapes. Never store in extreme heat or cold. Be sure you make copies of your videos before you send off your box!
8. Observe the "Rule of Thirds": Imagine that your frame is divided into thirds. Where the imaginary lines intersect, place your subject and other points of interest. In other words, it is too boring to stick everything in the middle of the frame.
9. An accepted practice for good composition is to lower the tripod to the eye level of the subject being taped. If taping small children, for example, you may need to place the cameras on a low table or even the floor. If someone is videotaping for you, be sure you tell them ahead of time what you want to capture and which groups to focus on.
10. Pan the room slowly.
11. Don't just tape the amount specified in your portfolio entry. Tape the entire lesson, then view the videotape and select the best part to showcase. You may choose a portion from the beginning, middle or end of the lesson but **be sure not to edit or interrupt the tape in any manner**. If you use a portion from the middle, cue the tape to the part where you want to begin and then let the tape play for the amount of time your entry specifies before turning it off. **The portion you use must be uninterrupted.**
12. Have a variety of videotapes to choose from. Get the students accustomed to having a video camera and another person in the room. Talk to your students about what you are doing.

13. FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS AND SPECIFICATIONS THAT ARE OUTLINED IN YOUR PORTFOLIO ENTRIES FOR VIDEOTAPING YOUR LESSONS!

*** This is key! Give them exactly what they ask for. Don't assume anything!**

REMEMBER: The ultimate choices and decisions to make regarding your videotapes, entries are yours to decide upon.