Week 5. Managing your classroom: student types and difficult situations

Section teaching is most useful when it is catered for the students in your section. To effectively apply the teaching techniques we have talked about so far in your actual classroom, you need to be aware of the types of students in a classroom and their learning styles. For most of the session we will discuss different student types and techniques for managing classroom interactions, and ask a few of you to practice teach a short interactive lesson, during which the rest of the class will model different student types. For the reminder of the session we will reflect on what we learned so far in the course.

Goals for this week:
- To better understand different student types so as to be able to better 'read' classroom situations.
- To gain concrete tips and techniques for addressing classroom situations that hinder student learning, either directly or via its effects on the classroom atmosphere.
- To develop an analytical framework for managing interactions in the classroom to enhance student learning.

Agenda

Handling student types
Before we get into specific student types, why do we care about student types?

Let's make a list of possible student types:

What kind of classroom situations may arise from various student types?

How can we best handle these situations to enhance student learning (for all students)?

What are some specific tips we can use to manage interactions in a classroom?

What are the dangers of looking for student types and stereotyping students?

What questions do you still have?

Interactive lesson

As you watch the teacher, think about and jot down comments on the following:
1. Describe some of the choices the teacher made in his or her use of classroom interactions.
2. Describe how the teacher managed the classroom. How did the teacher deal with particular student types?
3. Describe specific techniques the teacher used to advance the learning of all students.
4. Note anything you would consider doing differently.

Teacher 1:

Teacher 2:

Teacher 3: