

Frequently Asked Questions (Faqs)

i) What is micro teaching and what is it good for?

Ans: Micro teaching is "teaching-simulation", meant to boost your confidence before you teach for real for the first time. In brief, you get to "teach" for 10 minutes in front of some graduate student colleagues and a teaching consultant. Afterwards, you discuss how it went - all with the sole purposes of giving you confidence when you meet your real students.

ii) What is microteaching?

Ans: Micro teaching is organised practice teaching. The goal is to give instructors confidence, support, and feedback by letting them try out among friends and colleagues a short slice of what they plan to do with their students. Ideally, micro teaching sessions take place before the first day of class, and are videotaped for review individually with an experienced teaching consultant. Micro teaching is a quick, efficient, proven, and fun way to help teachers get off to a strong start.

iii) What are the preparations required in micro teaching?

Ans: Most course heads provide micro teachers with scenarios to prepare in advance. If not, think of a few minutes of material that you especially would like to make sure your students understand by the end of your next class. As always, you should not only plan out how to treat the subject matter, but also give some thought to how you are going to present yourself, manage the class, and involve the students. There are, of course many different ways of teaching for a given lesson. That is why participants find that, along with what they learn from their own experience practice teaching, they can also pick up many helpful ideas by observing fellow micro teachers.

iv) What are micro teaching sessions?

Ans: Micro teaching sessions are practice teaching sessions where instructors present short lessons to a small group of peers and receive detailed feedback on their performance. As a teaching development technique, micro teaching was first introduced at Stanford University in 1963. The micro teaching sessions are designed to provide student-teachers with opportunities to practice different teaching methods and receive constructive feedback in a supportive, low-risk environment.

v) How do micro teaching sessions work?

Ans: Each micro teaching session has 4-5 participants and one facilitator and is approximately 3 hours in length. Participants take turns teaching 15-minute interactive lessons. Each mini-lesson is timed so it is essential that you adhere to the 15-minute timeline. The mini-lesson is followed by a short (1 minute) reflection by the mini-lesson instructor on how the lesson went and 15 minutes of verbal feedback from peers as well as the facilitator.

Feedback is an important part of micro teaching. It focuses on what was done well and suggestions for improvement. Each participant is expected to give and receive constructive feedback.

vi) What are the topics of the mini-lesson?

Ans: The main focus of micro teaching sessions is on your approaches to teaching, not the content. Each 15-minutes lesson has a different thematic focus to give you opportunities to practice various teaching methods. Training is also given in the mastery of only one skill at a time. One should master the components of the task of teaching before he attempts to perform effectively the complicated task of teaching at macro-level.