

SUNY ROCKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

FACULTY PEER OBSERVATION REPORT

Instructor Shayal Rachel Nove

Class/Session Speech 101 9-10 AM

Observer Mimi Frank

Date & Time Oct 20 2010

1. Goals/Objectives of the Session-

After this session the students should become aware of the import of language and rhetorical devices in speaking

2. Were the goals/objectives of the session accomplished.

Yes. See below

3. What impressed you most during this session? What were the instructor's strengths during the session?

The class hour was illustrative of an active teaching learning process, using multiple media. created by a master teacher.

Some of the activities Prof. Nove used were directed small group problem solving, guided group participation (response to word association), lecture, power point stimuli and reinforcers. The students were engaged, responsive, and related previously learned materials to new ideas.

Topics covered included Denotation, Connotation, Polishing Your Words, Power Words, Catch Phrases, Hyperbole, Allusion, Alliteration, Metaphors and Similes. The way in which language impacts and can be used to develop speeches was obviously the focus. Not only was the material presented, explained, and illustrated but the ideas were related to contemporary events e.g. Language and the Islamic Center and the Arizona Immigration Controversy. The students, even the most seemingly lethargic, were enticed into learning and provided their own contemporary evidence of trigger words and catch phrases. The instructor clearly respected her students in her interaction and level of delivery and they responded in kind. Her animation, preparation, knowledge, and professionalism were extraordinary.

As I sat there marveling at the expertise of the instructor and the learning taking place I was thrilled to remember that Rachel Nove is a home grown student. She was indeed a graduate of RCC, a former president of Sigma Chi Eta (our speech honor society), an alumna of Empire State and a soon to be alumna of Columbia University's Teacher's College. We and our students are indeed fortunate to have an instructor of Rachel's caliber with us. Let's try to keep her.

FYI I have included a copy of her student evaluation
JK

March 24, 2008

Re: Chaya/Rachel Nove

Every once in a rare while a student emerges who exemplifies the goals of the community college in its outreach to the nontraditional student. Chaya/Rachel Nove is such a student. It was my privilege to have Ms. Nove as a student in our Honors Speech course and then to serve as her adviser for her tenure at Rockland Community College.

Intellectually curious, articulate, creative, enthusiastic, highly intelligent, involved, and mature are just a few of the multiple positive descriptors of Chaya. While a student in our Honors Speech course, her topics ranged from meditation to cell phone etiquette to communication to culture. Each speech was exceedingly well researched and organized and enthusiastically and articulately delivered. So impressed were her classmates and this instructor that she was selected to represent this very able group in the department's semiannual speech contest. To no one's surprise, she won first place. Rachel/Chaya has a capacity to reach all types of people. Ages, socioeconomic levels, academic levels, and cultures are all comfortable differences for her to transcend. Even though she had spent nine years as a language arts teacher at a religious girls high school, she was more than willing, able, and anxious to assume the role of student/co-learner. I invited her to work as a conversation facilitator for international students. She accepted. Her work in enabling students from diverse linguistic cultures to become comfortable in conversational English was remarkable. Ms. Nove is one of those "WOW" students!

Her interest in human interaction using language in all its forms, both spoken and written, led to multiple discussion regarding her academic future, after she completed her baccalaureate at SUNY's Empire State College. (By the way, she completed her BA in one year while maintaining a traditional Jewish home, caring for three children and a husband, and participating in the communal responsibilities of the Orthodox culture) Her love of learning, ability to balance responsibilities, and excellent academic performance, a 4.0GPA, have opened multiple opportunities. She would make an excellent community college instructor in either the field of speech/communication or ESL/Linguistics. Interestingly, Rockland County is home to the largest population of nonnative speaker of English outside of New York City. There's a population waiting for her special talents.

Lest you think of Chaya/Rachel as a returning student who merely attends classes and returns home, let me hasten to add that while she was at Rockland she served as President of Sigma Chi Eta (National Speech Honorary Society), the featured speaker at our Honors Convocation, a symposium coordinator, a member of a reader's theatre group, an active member of Phi Theta Kappa and Dean's List.

Rachel Nove had added so much to RCC's academic and social community that I can certainly extrapolate her potential success at, support for, and positive addition to Columbia's Teachers College. She is a student not to be missed!

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SIGNATURE PAGE

Thomas Frank

Observer's Signature/Date

Please sign either (A) or (B) on the signature line provided.

(A) _____
Faculty Signature/Date I have seen this document and have no statement to make.

(B) _____
Faculty Signature/Date. I have seen this document and my statement is attached.