

## Lesson Observation Guidelines

As a part of this course, you are required to observe a number of lessons over the course of the semester.

**Deadlines of when these observations should be turned in are listed in the course schedule.**

These lessons that you observe are not sonic baths; you are doing these to observe how different teachers approach the teaching of singing. Lessons may be observed in person or online (a list of online lesson videos on YouTube will be provided to you).

You are encouraged to see as many different voice types (soprano, mezzo, countertenor, tenor, baritone, bass) and genres (classical, jazz, popular, musical theater, blues, etc) as possible. You are also encouraged when possible to view the same teacher multiple times, in order to see how they adapt their teaching to the needs of different voices. **By doing so, you will see a variety of methods, hear a wide variety of sounds and become exposed to a large selection of repertoire different from that which you sing.**

You will be given a format to follow for your observations, which will include:

1. All vocalises, noted as best as you can (if possible on music staff, or at least in solfege or scale degree/numbers, vowels and consonants used, etc.). Note when an exercise was used in the vocalizing section of the lesson, the range it was used in, why it was used, and so on. ***Please do not avoid teachers who use several vocalises, nor should you avoid lessons without an accompanist. You need to observe a variety of lessons, not just those where repertoire is being coached.***
2. All repertoire sung during the lesson
3. Specific corrective techniques used by the teacher to address vocal problems
4. Pacing of the lesson – how much time spent on vocalizing, how much on each piece, etc.
5. Observations you have about the learning style of the student and the teaching style of the teacher; how does the teacher adapt his or her style to meet the needs of this student?
6. Other comments that you might have regarding what you saw and heard.

Protocol for doing any type of “live” observations:

1. Speak with the faculty member and the student BEFORE the lesson you wish to observe. Ask if you may observe a particular lesson.
2. On the day of the lesson, be EARLY. Don't go in if you arrive late - do not disrupt the teaching of the faculty member and the learning of the student! Silence and/or turn off your phone. Unless asked for your comments or questions by the teacher, refrain from making comments. Remember that you are a guest in one of your colleagues' lessons. They may be observing you sometime, too, so don't take up their lesson time with your questions. Stay the whole lesson.
3. If the student and the faculty member have time for questions after the lesson, you may ask them at that time – but they are not obligated to do so.
4. If for any reason the faculty member asks you to leave the lesson, do so quickly and quietly.