

Critical Friend Programme

A critical friend is a friend or colleague you invite to observe you teaching.

Before the class: sit down with your critical friend and state:

- An aspect of your teaching that you do well or you think effective.
- An aspect of your teaching that you think you could improve on.
- An aspect of your teaching that you think could be done differently or improved upon and are looking for suggestions for.

It is these aspects that your critical friend will focus on throughout your class.

After the class: sit down again and talk about your teaching with your critical friend. Go through the aspects of your teaching you had outlined before the class.

The job of the critical friend is to:

- Provide positive feedback on your teaching and state what aspects worked and were effective.
- Suggest ideas on what you could improve on/ different approaches / a different way of looking at something that you don't think works in the classroom.

What the critical friend does not do:

- Criticise your teaching in any way.
- Interrupt during the class.

Remember:

- **YOU** get to decide who your critical friend is.
- **YOU** pick what aspects of your teaching you would like to focus on.
- **YOU** decide whether or not to take any suggestions/advice on board.
- **ALL** correspondence remains between you and your critical friend.

What is to be gotten from this?

- An opportunity to develop and improve your teaching.
- A different/new perspective on aspects of your teaching.
- An opportunity to learn about new ideas/ approaches that you had not thought about.
- Having a critical friend is meant to be a positive experience that contributes to your teaching skills and outlook.