

Tips-Working with Students in the Lab



- **Keep it Simple!** – Especially if it is your first attempt.
- Consider working with another teacher, or possibly getting suggestions from others during team time.
- **Test it First** – try to anticipate possible problems.
- Determine if a different Evaluation model will be needed
- Consider having students work in Pairs – or try a Group project, rather than all students on individual computers.
- Determine if students have knowledge of

the program you plan to use, or if your lesson will need to include some instruction in the use of the program.

- Have the Infocus checked out and connected to be used for demonstration, if needed.
- Try to give as much instruction as possible **before** students enter lab – review behavior expectations.
- If students are working in groups have specific jobs for each, explain what it should “look like” while they are working.
- Explain your expectation to students – product should be(free of spelling errors, have a heading, etc.)
- If you need to periodically give instruction in the lab arrange a “signal” ahead of time so that you can easily get their attention.
- I’d recommend a “hands-off” policy...no one (including the teacher) should touch anyone else’s computer.
- If it is a writing activity possibly have students do pre-writing before going to the lab.
- Determine how you will have them SAVE (students should have their own login & home directory) Have a few disks available, just in case!
- Work should be “saved” frequently.
- Plan for a second visit if it is needed.
- After using the technology do a reflection activity with students to determine what could have worked better, or what did work well, and why. This is especially needed if it has been a group project.
- If the activity didn’t work well, don’t give up!
- Plan for “what ifs....”