

## HS Natural Resources pH Materials Interview

Interviewer: Please describe the instructional materials you're using for the lesson.

Teacher: For the sixth period, the hydroponics, aquaponic class, the materials that our using are pretty much materials that you need to actually run these systems. The way I teach the class is I do hit the standards, but I do it in an unconventional way. Rather than paper, pencil, books, I like to do hands on activities. Everything that we do use is what they will actually use in the setting of running the systems. Like today, they used the meters. They used the testing kits. They were actually out there planting, using perlite, using what they actually need to show me that they understand the concept.

As for Aquaponics, as you can see, I'm very hands off with them. I have a problem and they have to work together to create a solution. From start to finish, they were able to do that today.

Interviewer: Why did you choose these materials?

Teacher: These materials, because they are able to assess the students. I'm able to just see a different color, and they're able to tell me yes that's good, no, it's not good. They're able to read a meter, tell me yes it's good, no, it's not good. It's hands on materials that can use and actually see work.

Interviewer: What is it you like about these materials?

Teacher: That they're tangible. The kids are able to tell me why or why not right off the bat. Rather than writing it down on a piece of paper, they can tell me it's no good, the fertilizer is too high. Or, it's no good, there's too much acid. At least there's a communication, rather than paper or pencil.

Interviewer: Are there any changes you'd make to these materials?

Teacher: I wouldn't change anything. It's easy enough for my students to understand. Even the ones that are having a harder time were still able to work with it and were still able to test. The students are able to actually do something hands on, rather than just pulling it out of a book and memorizing things. They're able to understand the concept why or why not.

Interviewer: How would you describe these materials as meaningful [inaudible 00:01:58] to students' lives?

[00:02:00]

Teacher: Especially with the aquaponics case, I know they were having a hard time with the hole, they were getting frustrated. Then when it fully got finished and they were able to see the product that they created, you see all their smiles on their faces and you see that

they did that together. Just having them feel like, oh, we used all these materials, even though it was hard work and we had to really think how to use these different things, they were able to create the final product. Feeling accomplished that they actually did something with what they had.