**Goal 1: Achieve Empathy**

Effective teachers exhibit empathy—a willingness to see events from different and nonjudgmental points of view and to appreciate others’ interpretations or reasons for acting the way they do. An empathetic approach can help you understand student behavior from the student’s point of view, which often provides insights for effective ways of dealing with problems or challenges. Your ability to empathize during classroom observations will serve you well both as an observer and as a teacher. Although your own experiences are an important source of information in evaluating what you observe, you will also benefit from trying to understand events form the teacher’s vantage point. As a result, your observations will extend beyond your personal and textbook knowledge of teaching to include an awareness of the variety of social and emotional contexts that can influence a teacher’s decision.

**Goal 2: To Establish Cooperative Relationships**

As you become involved in practicum, student teaching and then the beginning years of teaching, you will find a need to develop cooperative relationships with your colleagues. As you observe during your pre-service experiences, you should take the opportunity to discover how professionals create and maintain cooperative relationships and how you can become an active participant in these relationships.

**Goal 3: To Become Realistic**

Most beginning teachers have an idealistic view of schools and teaching. From your classroom observations, you will learn that schools and classrooms vary widely and that each context offers both advantages and challenges. As you observe and reflect, you will become more realistic in evaluating both what is desirable and what is possible.

**Goal 4: To Establish Direction**

Another purpose of classroom observation is to establish the professional goals toward which you will want to work during student teaching and first years of teaching. By observing others, you will identify characteristics and practices you will want to emulate in your own teaching.

**Goal 5: To Attain Confidence**

Trust your instincts! Often pre-service teachers have a lack of confidence in their ability to act spontaneously in a given situation. Sometimes spontaneous judgments and instincts may serve the decision-making process better than a less relevant mechanical or academic response. Learn to trust your initial responses to a classroom problem or decision.

**Goal 6: To Express Enthusiasm**

Effective teachers demonstrate an enthusiasm for the subject matter they teach and for the teaching profession. The ability to express enthusiasm stems from a belief that what we do matters.

**Goal 7: To Become Flexible**

To develop as a professional, you must try new things and risk occasional failure. Because some struggle is inevitable in becoming an effective teacher, it is important to develop a flexible attitude.

**Goal 8: To Become Self-Reliant**

Focused observation in classrooms will reveal that teaching is a complex profession for which no amount of forma training can provide all of the preparation needed. You are building a professional frame form which to interpret events and make decisions.

Borich, G., (2011) *Observation Skills for Effective Teachers,* (6th edition), Pearson Education, Inc. Boston, Allyn and Bacon.