Improving Teaching through Analysis of Lesson Videos

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Background

• Classroom as final common pathway
• TIMSS Video: why study “average” teaching?
• Key findings from TIMSS video:
  – Teaching is cultural, hard to change
  – Reforms rarely penetrate into the classroom
• Programs can make teachers more knowledgeable, but not improve teaching and learning in classroom
Approach to Improving Teaching

• Focus on teaching more than teachers (direct improvement in classroom, motivated by problems of practice)
• Use methods that are known to change culture: Use daily routine of teaching as lever for change (plan, teach, assess, analyze)
• Give teachers opportunities to work together
  – slow down cycle of teaching
  – Learn tools for disciplined planning and analysis (rubric’s for work of teaching important)
  – develop knowledge in context of use
Example: Science

• Problem in science: activities become ends in themselves, often not used as vehicles for developing scientific concepts

• In two LessonLab studies (Kathy Roth), using TIMSS video analysis protocol’s as tools teachers can use to analyze their own lessons: making visible the science in science teaching
Video Example
Conclusion

• Technology can be a powerful tool for
  – Creating more time for this kind of work
  – Teaching teachers how to plan and analyze
  – Providing knowledge: alternative examples, analysis frameworks, etc.