Goals for Pre and Post Observation Meetings

ANY effective peer observation requires the observer to learn before the visit:

1. Her/his own values, assumptions, preferences, and biases as a teacher.
2. The context of the class meeting (within the course framework; type of students).
3. What the students are supposed to do and learn.
4. How the instructor has defined his/her role for the session observed.
5. The instructor’s expectations for what will actually happen in the session observed.

What to accomplish in a post-observation meeting:

1. Explore the instructor’s interpretation of what happened and why
   - “Did that go as you expected?” “In what ways/why not?”

2. Co-analyze with the instructor his/her purpose, method and practices
   - “There was a moment 5 minutes into the class where students seemed confused about they were supposed to do. What do you think was the source of their confusion?”
   - “A student asked you, “What should we…..? What did you make of that question?”
   - “At one point you said, “XXXX.” What were you doing at that point?”

3. Share your own interpretation of what happened and why
   - “I noticed that most of the students looked down when you said “XXX.” Any idea why? I was wondering if they were ....”
   - “There was a moment where you asked students to do X; I thought this activity worked really well, and helped achieve the goal of...”