
Observing for Standards and Shifts

An Observation Protocol for Instructional Video

Step One - Before Viewing the Lesson

Team calibrates understanding of intended standards and match to instruction by answering the questions, “What should we see if teacher was addressing the standard correctly?”

Step Two – While Viewing the Lesson

Observe and capture evidence about what the teacher is saying and doing – script teacher directions and explanations; notice anchor charts, white board/chalk board lesson descriptions and directions, etc.

Observe and capture evidence about what the students are saying and doing. Make note of points of struggle or developing misconceptions. Pay close attention to the students who are not actively participating.

Step Three – Post-Observation Debrief

Begin with the standard(s). As a team, calibrate about what standard(s) were observed. Use the Mastery Connect app to look them up and confirm.

Recreate the student learning experience. Begin with what observers saw first, second, third, etc. Make sure all comments are evidenced-based.

*First video only:
Spend the first couple of minutes discussing general impressions, pedagogy and classroom management.
While important aspects of teacher effectiveness, these observations are not the purpose of the observation.
This activity is necessary though: it helps create space for the next phase of the debrief.*

Step Three – Drawing Conclusions

Begin to draw conclusions from the observation by discussing the following:

- What standard(s) were being attempted? Were those the intended standard(s)? If not, to what grade and standard is the task aligned?
- What are the knowledge and skills required to be successful on this task?
- Were the following a good match to the intended standard(s):
 - Instruction given by the teacher?
 - Standards knowledge of the teacher?
 - Content knowledge of the teacher?
 - Student materials and tasks?

Step Four - Make a Plan for Providing Feedback