

Classroom Observation Tools and Techniques

- Scripting:
 - Teacher instructions
 - Teacher questions
 - Teacher one-on-one conversations with students
 - Student questions
 - Student responses, categorized by:
 - Student volunteers
 - Student responds when called upon
 - Student initiates a comment or question related to lesson
 - Student initiates an unrelated comment or question
 - Student answers, categorized by:
 - Single word or phrase with no additional detail or support
 - Answer with details to support answer
 - Answer with explanation of thinking or processing used to develop answer
 - Student side-bar conversations
- Counting
 - Teacher questions, categorized by Bloom's taxonomy
 - Student questions
 - Teacher instructional time
 - Student work time
 - Number of students who are on task
- Tracking
 - Teacher movements
 - Teacher eye contact
 - Student movements
 - Student attention

Remember, when the observers are focusing on students, it is helpful for the teacher to call observers' attention to specific students. For example, the teacher might ask observers to focus on high performing students to understand what they are doing differently than lower performing students, or on a particular group of lower achieving students in order to understand why they are slower or more reluctant to engage in class discussions.