

Focus Topics for Observations

- Checking for Understanding
 - Different methods, what are you seeing and not seeing?
- Classroom Management
 - Seating arrangements
 - Classroom set-up and what's on the walls
 - How teacher handles blurting and minor disruptions
 - Routines
 - discipline
 - Positive vs. negative reinforcement
 - Off topic conversations
- Student Engagement
 - Students comfort level asking questions and answering questions
 - Movement
 - Active Learning
 - How teacher handles the passive learner
 - Dealing with uninterested students
 - Student-teacher relationship
 - Teacher attitude, composure, rapport
 - Challenging high students vs. helping low students
- Teaching Techniques
 - Preparation
 - Modalities
 - Types of preparation
 - Presentation styles
 - Use of manipulatives
 - Teacher movement
- Time Management
 - Transitions
 - Wasted time
 - Time spent with Individual students
- Structure of Cooperative Learning
 - Partner work
 - Group work
- Student talk vs. Teacher talk
- Questioning Styles
 - Wait time
 - "no opt out"
 - who gets called on?
 - How students get called on
 - Academic language
 - How teacher deals with awkward silence and "I don't know"
 - Use of academic language?
 - Types of questions asked (ie. Yes/no, open-ended, leading questions)
- Special Populations
 - Special Education students
 - English Language Learners
 - GATE
- Lesson Planning
 - Introduction of lesson
 - Flow of lesson
 - Transitions
 - Activities