Focus Topics for Observations

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