



National
School
Reform
Faculty

Harmony
Education
Center

www.nsrffharmony.org

Student Observation Protocol Focus Point

Adapted for observing students in ATLAS Communities from Peer Observation Protocols created by the National School Reform Faculty.

This protocol is designed to help deepen the observed's understanding of the effect of their practice on students. The observer's role is to note those events that relate to a particular aspect of the observed's practice and to then act as an active listener as the observed attempts to make sense of those events.

Pre-Observation Conference

In addition to outlining what will be occurring during the observation, the person to be observed asks the observer to focus on a particular aspect of his or her practice. For example: "Would you look at how students respond to my questions?" or "Would you look at how my response to student questions affects students?"

Observation

The observer focuses on the impact of that aspect of practice raised during the pre-observation conference. Field notes include both descriptions of "focus" events and related questions that the observer may wish to raise during the debriefing.

Debriefing

The observer begins by restating the focus and asking the observed to share their thoughts. Example: "What did you notice about the impact of your responses to student questions on the classroom?" As the observed talks, the observer may 1) supply specific events that either corroborate or contrast with the observed's statements, 2) summarize what the observed is saying, 3) ask clarifying questions, or 4) raise questions related to the focus that were noted during the observation.

Note: Events and questions not directly related to the focus of the observation should only be raised after asking for permission from the observed. Some practitioners think even asking for permission is inappropriate. The observer should refrain from stating their ideas and perspective on the issues unless specifically invited to do so.

Reflection

How will what I learned today impact my classroom practice? What will I do differently next time? What do I need to remember to do again?