

LESSON OBSERVATION

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Annotation: *A classroom observation is an act of watching a teacher's performance in their classroom or learning environment. Classroom observations are a quantitative way of recording and measuring teacher behavior and mastery by systematically watching and recording them in action.*

Key Words: *Relative words, language, relationships, position, direction, comparison, objects, people, above, below, beside, between, inside, outside, near, far, same, different.*

INTRODUCTION

A classroom observation is an act of watching a teacher's performance in their classroom or learning environment. Classroom observations are a quantitative way of recording and measuring teacher behavior and mastery by systematically watching and recording them in action.

There are two basic types of observations:

1. A school administrator watches a teacher's performance as a part of a formal job performance evaluation at a regularly scheduled interval (often annually).
2. An observation performed by a teacher's peer or peers, instructional specialist, or coach with the stated goal of providing the teacher with relevant feedback based on their interactions with students and their execution of teaching methods with the primary goal of making improvements in their classroom management and instructional techniques.

What Is the Purpose of Classroom Observation?

The fundamental purpose of classroom observation is to improve student outcomes by improving the instructional prowess of the teacher.

A secondary purpose of observation is to perform an investigation into possible inequities in instruction among different groups of students. This allows teachers and researchers to identify biases in how different groups of students are treated based on their gender, socioeconomic standing, or other differentiating factors to help eliminate them.

A final purpose is to provide researchers with information on current educational practices and to identify instructional problems.

Methods of Classroom Observation

There are many different ways for an observer to effectively perform an observation.

Some utilize homegrown in-house methods while others deploy nationally recognized models created by educational experts and further validated by research-based data. It really depends on the standard operating procedures of the school and the person performing the observation in which methods are used in a specific circumstance.

The Elements of Classroom Observation

Good classroom observation will contain most or all of the following elements:

- A stated purpose for the observation

- A specific observational focus
- Operational definitions of all the observed behaviors
- Training procedures for observers
- An observation schedule
- A setting
- A unit of time
- A method to record the data
- A method to process and analyze data

Classroom Observation Techniques

Checklists, charts, rating scales, and narrative descriptions are examples of observational techniques that have proven to be effective ways of examining a teacher in action.

The reason they are used so often is that they allow the observer to document almost everything that happens between the teacher and their students during the observation. They are a widely used tool because they are objective and they are designed in a way that helps keep the observer's personal judgments or inferences from skewing the data collected over the course of the observation.

Interactive coding systems can readily identify and capture specific and easily identifiable behaviors in a way that lends the data to easy coding and categorization which is especially helpful for analyzing the data and providing the teacher with objective feedback.

TORSH Talent is an effective tool for classroom observation and feedback. With TORSH Talent, coaches can provide feedback in custom, digitized rubrics that are specific to each induction teacher and their goals.

A lesson observation, or classroom observation, is a form of professional development for teachers. Teachers are observed normally by a member or members of the senior leadership team, and they then record and measure the quality of teaching to ensure pupils receive the best possible education. Lesson observations are implemented in all schools and are used by external bodies to assess the school. Any teacher can be observed and although the senior leadership team normally conduct lesson observations, this can be done by fellow teachers, administrators or external agencies. The majority of lesson observations will be planned and therefore, a teacher should be given five working days' notice for an observation. There are extenuating circumstances that could lead to a lesson observation being done with little to no notice. An Ofsted inspection, for example, will provide the school with a maximum of 1 day's notice.

Once the lesson observation is complete, you will receive lesson observation feedback. Lesson observation feedback should come in two forms, the first being oral and the second written. Oral feedback should be done as soon as possible after the lesson but not later than the end of the following working day. Oral lesson observation feedback is to be conducted during directed time, in a private, suitable environment. Written lesson observation feedback will be given to you within five working days. If any issues arise that are not part of the focus, these will be recorded in writing but also discussed with you for the next steps.

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