



# Leadership Capacity Toolkit

## Student Observation Questions

Who Would Use This Tool?

Any observer in a classroom

Overview of Tool

What students say provides an immense amount of data for any observer. This tool can be easily utilized by either asking students questions directly or by scripting information gathered. This tool should be used to simply look at what is said and not necessarily used as a means of evaluation. By providing a teacher an opportunity to reflect on how student's process what is being asked of them or what is being questioned can be extremely powerful as an instructor plans for subsequent lessons.

How Should a Leader Use This Tool?

This tool scaffolds a two-step process: 1) In-classroom Observation and 2) Post-Observation Reflection. During the observation, simply script what students say in response to an observer asking them questions. After the observation, use the "types of engagement" descriptions at the bottom of the tool and rate the level of student engagement based on their answers.

Cautions for Using this Tool

As always, make sure the teacher is aware of the reason for the observation and data collection prior to the lesson. Be careful to script only what students say.

Expert Principal Tips for Using this Tool

*Questions to Think About During a Feedback Conversation:*

1. Is there a balance of types of answers that students give to an observer?
2. Are students engaging at a level that will assure they are taking a deeper understanding away from the lesson?
3. Do students understand the rationale for why they are doing what they are doing?

# Determining Levels of Student Engagement

*Instructions: Record the responses of students as you observe their work. Utilize the rubric to determine the level of engagement for the responses.*

Observer/s Ask Students:	Step 1: In-classroom Observation	Step 2: Post-Observation Reflection
	Script Student Answers Here	Note Level of Engagement Here
What are you learning?		
Why are you learning this?		
Why are you learning this?		
How do you get help if you are struggling?		
What do you do if you are finished?		
What are the benefits of working with a partner?		

## Levels of Student Engagement

**Level 1: Behavioral Engagement** – Student is doing what the teacher has asked him/her to do because he/she is a rule follower. There is limited evidence that there is deep learning going on and student is essentially checking off a list to complete a task.

**Level 2: Emotional Engagement** – Student responses indicate they want to please the teacher and work to make sure there is a safe and secure environment. They do not question the reasonableness of theirs, or classmate's answers and they want to make sure the teacher is happy with them.

**Level 3: Cognitive Engagement** – The student continues to ask questions about the task and is much less concerned about getting the right answer and more concerned about deepening his/her understanding about the task. The student is motivated to learn more on his/her own and may ask the teacher for resources that will help him/her understand. The likelihood of the student researching more on his/her own is much greater.