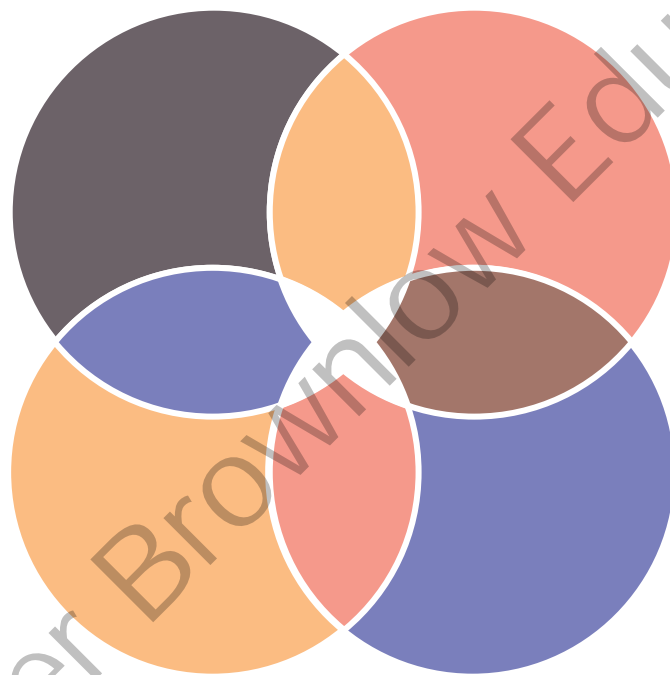


# THE FRAMEWORK FOR TEACHING EVALUATION INSTRUMENT

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**PROFICIENT • LEVEL 3**

The teacher displays solid knowledge of the important concepts in the discipline and how these relate to one another. The teacher demonstrates accurate understanding of prerequisite relationships among topics. The teacher's plans and practice reflect familiarity with a wide range of effective pedagogical approaches in the subject.

- The teacher can identify important concepts of the discipline and their relationships to one another.
- The teacher provides clear explanations of the content.
- The teacher answers students' questions accurately and provides feedback that furthers their learning.
- Instructional strategies in unit and lesson plans are entirely suitable to the content.

- *The teacher's plan for area and perimeter invites students to determine the shape that will yield the largest area for a given perimeter.*
- *The teacher has realized her students are not sure how to use a protractor, and so she plans to have them practice that skill before introducing the activity on angle measurement.*
- *The teacher plans to expand a unit on civics by having students simulate a court trial.*
- *And others...*

**DISTINGUISHED • LEVEL 4**

The teacher displays extensive knowledge of the important concepts in the discipline and how these relate both to one another and to other disciplines. The teacher demonstrates understanding of prerequisite relationships among topics and concepts and understands the link to necessary cognitive structures that ensure student understanding. The teacher's plans and practice reflect familiarity with a wide range of effective pedagogical approaches in the discipline and the ability to anticipate student misconceptions.

- The teacher cites intra- and interdisciplinary content relationships.
- The teacher's plans demonstrate awareness of possible student misconceptions and how they can be addressed.
- The teacher's plans reflect recent developments in content-related pedagogy.

- *In a unit on 19th-century literature, the teacher incorporates information about the history of the same period.*
- *Before beginning a unit on the solar system, the teacher surveys the students on their beliefs about why it is hotter in the summer than in the winter.*
- *And others...*



**UNSATISFACTORY • LEVEL 1**

Much instructional time is lost due to inefficient classroom routines and procedures. There is little or no evidence of the teacher's management of instructional groups and transitions and/or handling of materials and supplies effectively. There is little evidence that students know or follow established routines, or that volunteers and paraprofessionals have clearly defined tasks.

**BASIC • LEVEL 2**

Some instructional time is lost due to partially effective classroom routines and procedures. The teacher's management of instructional groups and transitions, or handling of materials and supplies, or both, are inconsistent, leading to some disruption of learning. With regular guidance and prompting, students follow established routines, and volunteers and paraprofessionals perform their duties.

**CRITICAL ATTRIBUTES**

- Students not working with the teacher are not productively engaged.
- Transitions are disorganized, with much loss of instructional time.
- There do not appear to be any established procedures for distributing and collecting materials.
- A considerable amount of time is spent off task because of unclear procedures.
- Volunteers and paraprofessionals have no defined role and/or are idle much of the time.

- Students not working directly with the teacher are only partially engaged.
- Procedures for transitions seem to have been established, but their operation is not smooth.
- There appear to be established routines for distribution and collection of materials, but students are confused about how to carry them out.
- Classroom routines function unevenly.
- Volunteers and paraprofessionals require frequent supervision.

**POSSIBLE EXAMPLES**

- *When moving into small groups, students ask questions about where they are supposed to go, whether they should take their chairs, etc.*
- *There are long lines for materials and supplies.*
- *Distributing or collecting supplies is time consuming.*
- *Students bump into one another when lining up or sharpening pencils.*
- *At the beginning of the lesson, roll-taking consumes much time and students are not working on anything.*
- *And others...*

- *Some students not working with the teacher are off task.*
- *Transition between large- and small-group activities requires five minutes but is accomplished.*
- *Students ask what they are to do when materials are being distributed or collected.*
- *Students ask clarifying questions about procedures.*
- *Taking attendance is not fully routinized; students are idle while the teacher fills out the attendance form.*
- *And others...*

## 3a COMMUNICATING WITH STUDENTS

Teachers communicate with students for several independent, but related, purposes. First, they convey that teaching and learning are purposeful activities; they make that purpose clear to students. They also provide clear directions for classroom activities so that students know what to do; when additional help is appropriate, teachers model these activities. When teachers present concepts and information, they make those presentations with accuracy, clarity, and imagination, using precise, academic language; where amplification is important to the lesson, skilled teachers embellish their explanations with analogies or metaphors, linking them to students' interests and prior knowledge. Teachers occasionally withhold information from students (for example, in an inquiry science lesson) to encourage them to think on their own, but what information they do convey is accurate and reflects deep understanding of the content. And teachers' use of language is vivid, rich, and error free, affording the opportunity for students to hear language used well and to extend their own vocabularies. Teachers present complex concepts in ways that provide scaffolding and access to students.

### The elements of component 3a are:

#### Expectations for learning

*The goals for learning are communicated clearly to students. Even if the goals are not conveyed at the outset of a lesson (for example, in an inquiry science lesson), by the end of the lesson students are clear about what they have been learning.*

#### Directions for activities

*Students understand what they are expected to do during a lesson, particularly if students are working independently or with classmates, without direct teacher supervision. These directions for the lesson's activities may be provided orally, in writing, or in some combination of the two, with modeling by the teacher, if it is appropriate.*

#### Explanations of content

*Skilled teachers, when explaining concepts and strategies to students, use vivid language and imaginative analogies and metaphors, connecting explanations to students' interests and lives beyond school. The explanations are clear, with appropriate scaffolding, and, where appropriate, anticipate possible student misconceptions. These teachers invite students to be engaged intellectually and to formulate hypotheses regarding the concepts or strategies being presented.*

#### Use of oral and written language

*For many students, their teachers' use of language represents their best model of both accurate syntax and a rich vocabulary; these models enable students to emulate such language, making their own more precise and expressive. Skilled teachers seize on opportunities both to use precise, academic vocabulary and to explain their use of it.*

### Indicators include:

- Clarity of lesson purpose
- Clear directions and procedures specific to the lesson activities
- Absence of content errors and clear explanations of concepts and strategies
- Correct and imaginative use of language

### The elements of component 3c are:

#### Activities and assignments

*The activities and assignments are the centerpiece of student engagement, since they determine what it is that students are asked to do. Activities and assignments that promote learning require student thinking that emphasizes depth over breadth and encourage students to explain their thinking.*

#### Grouping of students

*How students are grouped for instruction (whole class, small groups, pairs, individuals) is one of the many decisions teachers make every day. There are many options; students of similar background and skill may be clustered together, or the more-advanced students may be spread around into the different groups. Alternatively, a teacher might permit students to select their own groups, or they could be formed randomly.*

#### Instructional materials and resources

*The instructional materials a teacher selects to use in the classroom can have an enormous impact on students' experience. Though some teachers are obliged to use a school's or district's officially sanctioned materials, many teachers use these selectively or supplement them with others of their choosing that are better suited to engaging students in deep learning—for example, the use of primary source materials in social studies.*

#### Structure and pacing

*No one, whether an adult or a student, likes to be either bored or rushed in completing a task. Keeping things moving, within a well-defined structure, is one of the marks of an experienced teacher. And since much of student learning results from their reflection on what they have done, a well-designed lesson includes time for reflection and closure.*

**UNSATISFACTORY • LEVEL 1**

The teacher does not know whether a lesson was effective or achieved its instructional outcomes, or the teacher profoundly misjudges the success of a lesson. The teacher has no suggestions for how a lesson could be improved.

**BASIC • LEVEL 2**

The teacher has a generally accurate impression of a lesson's effectiveness and the extent to which instructional outcomes were met. The teacher makes general suggestions about how a lesson could be improved.

**CRITICAL ATTRIBUTES**

- The teacher considers the lesson but draws incorrect conclusions about its effectiveness.
- The teacher makes no suggestions for improvement.

- The teacher has a general sense of whether or not instructional practices were effective.
- The teacher offers general modifications for future instruction.

**POSSIBLE EXAMPLES**

- *Despite evidence to the contrary, the teacher says, "My students did great on that lesson!"*
- *The teacher says, "That was awful; I wish I knew what to do!"*
- *And others...*

- *At the end of the lesson, the teacher says, "I guess that went okay."*
- *The teacher says, "I guess I'll try \_\_\_\_\_ next time."*
- *And others...*

## 4f SHOWING PROFESSIONALISM

Expert teachers demonstrate professionalism in service both to students and to the profession. Teaching at the highest levels of performance in this component is student focused, putting students first regardless of how this stance might challenge long-held assumptions, past practice, or simply the easier or more convenient procedure. Accomplished teachers have a strong moral compass and are guided by what is in the best interest of each student. They display professionalism in a number of ways. For example, they conduct interactions with colleagues in a manner notable for honesty and integrity. Furthermore, they know their students' needs and can readily access resources with which to step in and provide help that may extend beyond the classroom. Seeking greater flexibility in the ways school rules and policies are applied, expert teachers advocate for their students in ways that might challenge traditional views and the educational establishment. They also display professionalism in the ways they approach problem solving and decision making, with student needs constantly in mind. Finally, accomplished teachers consistently adhere to school and district policies and procedures but are willing to work to improve those that may be outdated or ineffective.

### The elements of component 4f are:

#### Integrity and ethical conduct

*Teachers act with integrity and honesty.*

#### Service to students

*Teachers put students first in all considerations of their practice.*

#### Advocacy

*Teachers support their students' best interests, even in the face of traditional practice or beliefs.*

#### Decision making

*Teachers solve problems with students' needs as a priority.*

#### Compliance with school and district regulations

*Teachers adhere to policies and established procedures.*

### Indicators include:

- The teacher having a reputation as being trustworthy and often sought as a sounding board
- The teacher frequently reminding participants during committee or planning work that students are the highest priority
- The teacher supporting students, even in the face of difficult situations or conflicting policies
- The teacher challenging existing practice in order to put students first
- The teacher consistently fulfilling district mandates regarding policies and procedures