

Pre-Conference Sample Questions

The questions provided are intended to guide thinking and conversation; every question may not be answered or relevant for every observation.

INSTRUCTIONAL PLANNING

FOCUS FOR LEARNING (Standard 4: Instruction)

- What is the focus for the lesson?
- What content will students know/understand? What skills will they demonstrate?
- What standards are addressed in the planned instruction?
- Why is this learning important?

ASSESSMENT DATA (Standard 3: Assessment)

- What assessment data was examined to inform this lesson planning?
- What does pre-assessment data indicate about student learning needs?

PRIOR CONTENT KNOWLEDGE/ SEQUENCE/CONNECTIONS (Standard 1: Students / Standard 2: Content / Standard 4: Instruction)

- What prior knowledge do students need?
- What are the connections to previous and future learning?
- How does this lesson connect to students' real-life experiences and/or possible careers?
- How does it connect to other disciplines?

KNOWLEDGE OF STUDENTS (Standard 1: Students)

- What should the evaluator know about the student population? (See *Data Measures Inventory for the Classroom*)
- How is this a developmentally appropriate learning activity?

INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT

LESSON DELIVERY (Standard 2: Content / Standard 4: Instruction)

- How will the goals for learning be communicated to students?
- What instructional strategies and methods will be used to engage students and promote independent learning and problem solving?
- What strategies will be used to make sure all students achieve lesson goals?
- How will content-specific concepts, assumptions and skills be taught?

DIFFERENTIATION (Standard 1: Students / Standard 4: Instruction)

- How will the instructional strategies address all students' learning needs?
- How will the lesson engage and challenge students of all levels?
- How will developmental gaps be addressed?

RESOURCES (Standard 2: Content / Standard 4: Instruction)

- What resources/materials will be used in instruction?
- How will technology be integrated into lesson delivery?

CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT (Standard 1: Students / Standard 5: Learning Environment)

- How will the environment support all students?
- How will different grouping strategies be used?
- How will safety in the classroom be ensured?
- How will respect for all be modeled and taught?

ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING (Standard 3: Assessment)

- How will you check for understanding during the lesson?
- What specific products or demonstrations will assess student learning/achievement of goals for instruction?
- How will you ensure that students understand how they are doing and support students' self-assessment?
- How will you use assessment data to inform your next steps?

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

COLLABORATION AND COMMUNICATION (Standard 6)

- How do you cooperate with colleagues?
- How do you work with others when there is a problem?
- What is your communication style with students? With families? With colleagues?
- In what ways do you seek the perspectives of others? Give an example.

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND GROWTH (Standard 7)

- How do you apply knowledge gained from other experiences into your teaching?
- Discuss ways you reflect and analyze your teaching.
- What are some proactive ways you further your own professional growth?

Post-Conference Sample Questions

The questions provided are intended to guide thinking and conversation; every question may not be answered or relevant for every observation.

INSTRUCTIONAL PLANNING

FOCUS FOR LEARNING (Standard 4: Instruction)

- What was the focus for the lesson?
- Talk about the content that you hoped students would know and understand by the end of the lesson. What skills did they demonstrate to you?
- What standards were addressed in the planned instruction?
- Why was this learning important?
- How was the appropriateness of the goal communicated to students?
- How did your stated goals fit in to the unit, course and school goals?

ASSESSMENT DATA (Standard 3: Assessment)

- What assessment data was examined to inform the planning for the observed lesson?
- What did pre-assessment data indicate about student learning needs?
- What formal or informal techniques did you use to collect evidence of students' knowledge and skills?
- How did your assessment data help you identify student strengths and areas of improvement?

PRIOR CONTENT KNOWLEDGE/ SEQUENCE/CONNECTIONS

(Standard 1: Students / Standard 2: Content / Standard 4: Instruction)

- What prior knowledge did students need and how did you connect that to their future learning?
- How did this lesson connect to students' real-life experiences and/or possible careers?
- How did it connect to other disciplines?

KNOWLEDGE OF STUDENTS (Standard 1: Students)

- How did this lesson demonstrate your familiarity with the students' background knowledge and experiences?
- Talk about how this lesson was developmentally appropriate for your students.
- What strategies did you plan for and implement to meet the needs of individual students?

INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT

LESSON DELIVERY (Standard 2: Content / Standard 4: Instruction)

- How were the goals for learning communicated to students?
- What instructional strategies and methods were used to engage students and promote independent learning and problem solving?
- What strategies were used to make sure all students achieve lesson goals?
- How were content-specific concepts, assumptions and skills taught?
- What questioning techniques did you use to support student learning?
- How did you ensure this lesson was student led?

DIFFERENTIATION (Standard 1: Students / Standard 4: Instruction)

- How did the instructional strategies address all students' learning needs?
- How did the lesson engage and challenge students of all levels?
- How were developmental gaps addressed?
- Why is it important to provide varied options for student mastery?

RESOURCES (Standard 2: Content / Standard 4: Instruction)

- What resources/materials were used in instruction?
- How was technology integrated into lesson delivery?
- How did students show ownership of their learning?

CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT

(Standard 1: Students / Standard 5: Learning Environment)

- How did the environment support all students?
- How were different grouping strategies used?
- How was safety in the classroom ensured?
- How was respect for all modeled and taught?

ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING

(Standard 3: Assessment)

- How did you check for understanding during the lesson?
- What specific products or demonstrations assessed student learning/achievement of goals for instruction?
- How did you ensure that students understand how they are doing and support students' self-assessment?
- How did you use assessment data to inform your next steps?
- Why is it important to provide specific and timely feedback?

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

COLLABORATION AND COMMUNICATION (Standard 6)

- How do you cooperate with colleagues?
- How do you work with others when there is a problem?
- What is your communication style with students? With families? With colleagues?
- In what ways do you seek the perspectives of others? Give an example.

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND GROWTH (Standard 7)

- How do you apply knowledge gained from other experiences into your teaching?
- Discuss ways you reflect and analyze your teaching.
- What are some proactive ways you further your own professional growth?