



Student Observation Protocol Just My Kids

Adapted for observing students in ATLAS Communities from Peer Observation Protocols created by educators in the field affiliated with the NSRF.

Finding the time to observe and debrief can be a real problem in the daily life of a school. This protocol addresses the issue of coordinating schedules because the observation is a self-observation. “Just My Kids” also addresses the fact that often the most interesting lessons, the ones that seem to have much potential for learning, just happen and aren’t necessarily planned.

Pre-Observation Conference

There is no pre-observation conference in this protocol. Instead, the teacher sets up a video camera in the corner of the room that will allow most of the students’ faces to be seen. S/he turns it on prior to the students entering the classroom.

Observation

Place a video camera in the corner of the room. Test it to make sure it is focused on the students you want to observe. This could be the entire classroom, a project group, lab partners, or a single student.

Debriefing

The teacher watches the video of his/her students alone. Note “ah-ha’s” and behaviors of the students that seem significant to the learning of your students. You may choose to generate a list of questions to ask your CFG, or a list of practices that seem to impact student learning more than others do. You may also want to do a more formal debrief with either your CFG or your students.

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?