



Teachscape
focus

Observation Training and Assessment System





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Train, Assess, and Calibrate Observers



Based on Charlotte Danielson's Framework for Teaching, Teachscape Focus is a vital element of any fair and equitable approach to teacher observation and evaluation, and helps ensure the Framework is used with integrity and fidelity.

The need to institute training programs for observers has never been greater. With state and federal policy initiatives and an increasing emphasis on performance-based teacher evaluation systems, it is even more important that observers demonstrate the ability to accurately and reliably assess teaching practice.

Effective evaluations and focused feedback from well-trained observers enable teachers to improve their effectiveness. Since studies show that a great teacher can impart a year-and-a-half's worth of learning to a student in one year, improving teaching effectiveness is critical.

Teachscape Focus provides districts with a complete online solution for training, assessing, and calibrating observers to ensure they have a deep knowledge of Charlotte Danielson's Framework for Teaching and can accurately apply it to assess teaching practice. The system includes:

- Observer Training
- Scoring Practice
- Proficiency Assessment
- Calibration

Observer Training: Develop Observer Expertise

This self-paced online training was developed to help observers increase their reliability and accuracy in identifying, categorizing, and scoring evidence of teaching practice. With modules covering all four domains of the Framework for Teaching, this training helps observers understand and accurately differentiate teaching at the four levels of performance in the Framework for Teaching Evaluation Instrument.

- More than 20 hours of training and over 100 master-scored videos
- Videos show teaching in grades K-12 and multiple subject areas (English language arts, math, science, and social studies)
- Videos include scoring rationale, benchmark videos, and rangefinder videos
- Includes training modules that help observers minimize bias and orient teachers to the observation process

Framework for Teaching Proficiency System

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Training 2a: Creating an Environment of Respect and Rapport Print

Overview

Elements

Indicators

Identify relevant evidence

Rubric

Recognize level descriptions

Distinguish between levels

Levels of Performance

Level 3: Critical Attributes

Level 3: Sample Videos

Level 2: Critical Attributes

Level 2: Sample Videos

Level 1: Critical Attributes

Level 1: Sample Videos

Level 4: Critical Attributes

Level 4: Sample Videos

Practice gathering evidence

Assign a level

Overview

Identify relevant evidence

Having reviewed the indicators for **Creating an Environment of Respect and Rapport**, select whether each piece of evidence is "relevant" or "not relevant" for the component. (We discuss more examples of evidence when we discuss rubric levels in detail.) You will not be able to click on "See Answers" until you have selected an answer choice for every piece of evidence.

.....

The teacher says, "I think most of you will be able to do this."

☐ Relevant ☐ Not relevant

.....

Students roll their eyes at a classmate's idea; the teacher does not respond.

☐ Relevant ☐ Not relevant

.....

The teacher asks a student to explain the task to other students.

☐ Relevant ☐ Not relevant


.....

The teacher greets students by name as they enter the class or during the lesson.

Scoring Practice: Apply Skills with Classroom Videos

- Practice videos cover English language arts, math, and social studies or science
- Includes videos in grade levels K–5, 6–8, K–8, 9–12, and K–12
- Each practice video includes the correct scores for each component assigned by a master rater, along with rationale for the scores
- Scoring accuracy reports help identify specific components in which observers may require more training

Scoring practice uses master-scored videos to help prepare observers for real-world classroom observations. Observers can view and score classroom videos using rubrics, compare their scores with those assigned by a master rater, and review the rationale for the scores.



The screenshot displays a video player with two views: a wide-angle view of a classroom and a close-up of a teacher writing on a whiteboard. Below the video, there is a text input field labeled "Type Your Evidence Here:" with a character count of 5000. To the right of the input field is an "Add" button. Below the input field, there is a section titled "Select Component(s) Associated with this Evidence". This section contains a list of components with checkboxes: "2a: Creating an Environment of Respect and Rapport" (checked), "2b: Establishing a Culture for Learning", "2c: Managing Classroom Procedures", and "2d: Managing Student Behavior".

Proficiency Assessment: Assess Observation Skills

Developed using a scientifically sound methodology, the proficiency assessment challenges observers to demonstrate that they understand and can apply the Framework for Teaching to assess classroom teaching in an accurate and consistent manner.

The proficiency assessment uses master-scored videos and multiple-choice test items to measure observers' ability to distinguish between evidence and interpretation or bias, categorize evidence to the correct component of the Framework, and assign accurate scores to classroom videos.

- Rigorous assessment measures observers' proficiency in assessing classroom practice accurately
- Five test versions: elementary, middle school, high school, K–8, and K–12
- Includes videos from several content areas, including English language arts, math, science, and social studies
- Includes proficiency analysis reports for district administrators and pass reports for observers
- Sub-skills report provides observers with feedback on specific areas of observation they may need to develop



Calibration: Maintain Observer Proficiency

Over time, even observers who have demonstrated proficiency in scoring classroom practice can experience “drift” in their accuracy. Calibration helps observers check their scoring accuracy throughout the school year, includes suggestions for improving accuracy, and helps maintain inter-rater reliability.

- Up to three calibration exercises (or “windows”) per year that take about one hour to complete and include two 15-minute master-scored videos
- Observers score each video using the eight observable components of the Framework for Teaching and compare their scores to the master scores
- Instant feedback and expert rationale are provided, along with recommendations for improving accuracy
- Dashboard supports coaching and collaborative learning sessions to provide individualized feedback to observers through review of calibration videos along with observer and master-scorer responses



Partnerships



Teachscape *Focus* was born out of our work with Charlotte Danielson and ETS in the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Measures of Effective Teaching (MET) project. In the MET project, Teachscape captured video from more than 3,000 classrooms and 20,000 lessons across grades 4–9 English language arts, grades 4–9 math, and grade 10 biology, and we worked with Charlotte Danielson and ETS to develop a rater training and certification system for 500 raters nationwide.

Informed by our joint work in the MET project, Teachscape, Charlotte Danielson, and ETS have partnered to create this new online training, assessment, and calibration system that is now available to all districts to help improve the accuracy and integrity of the observation and evaluation process.



To find out more about **Teachscape Focus**, call 877.98.TEACH, or visit our website at www.teachscape.com.

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