

**Instructional Rounds (IR)**  
**Observation of Practice Protocol**

**Observer:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Observational Rules**

- Listen; do not interrupt the teacher or the lesson.
- Do not talk to students unless it is appropriate at that point in the lesson.
- Do not talk to other observers while inside the classroom; wait until the debrief.

Collecting Data: Collect data that is:

- Descriptive, not evaluative
- Specific
- Related the instructional core (teacher/student interaction with content)

**Fundamentals of Observation**

• *Get Oriented to the Classroom:* What grade is it? What content area? How many students are in there? What is the demographic make-up of the class (students and adults)? How many minutes into the class are we?

- ✓ **Identify the Task:** What are the students being asked to do? What are they actually doing?
- ✓ **Patterns of Interaction:** Is it teacher-student-teacher? Do students talk with each other? Do students initiate conversations, or are they always responding to the teacher?
- ✓ **When observing in a classroom,** focus on what students are actually doing, not just what the teacher has asked them to do or what the conversations seem to be about. You are observing how students are engaging with the task.
- ✓ **Listen to Questions:** What questions are being asked? Who is asking them? What are the responses to the questions?
- ✓ **Consider Time:** How much time is spent on what activity?
- ✓ **Look Fors:**

**Students are building strong base of knowledge through content rich texts.**

Not observed \_\_\_\_\_ Clearly Observable

**Students are reading, writing or speaking grounded in evidence.**

Not observed \_\_\_\_\_ Clearly Observable

**Students can construct viable arguments and critique reasoning of others.**

Not observed \_\_\_\_\_ Clearly Observable

**Teacher is utilizing Learning in the Fast Lane/GLAD strategies to support struggling learners.**

Not observed \_\_\_\_\_ Clearly Observable

**Students are actively engaged in meaningful, intellectual tasks.**

Not observed \_\_\_\_\_ Clearly Observable

Focus on teacher/student interactions and time spent on activities.

- What is the task and what are the students doing?
- What questions are being asked and who is asking them?
- How much time is being spent on each activity?

Task: (note time started and ended)

What is the teacher saying or doing?  
(Describe, do not judge. Be specific, do not summarize.)

What are the students saying and doing?  
(Describe, do not judge. Be specific, do not summarize.)