

MGS OBSERVATION PROTOCOL

This protocol was developed to facilitate the discussion of collegial observations done across multiple classrooms. Emphasis is on developing the group's recognition and understanding of the discourse that is happening in classrooms by recognizing its shape, flow, and pattern. Interpretations and implications focus on understanding how discourse affects student learning and our role in shaping that discourse.*

Times are based on four classrooms being observed and discussed. The times for Steps 1 and 2 would need to be adjusted accordingly if fewer or more groups are to be observed and discussed.

Step 1: Context (15 min.)

- Group gathers thoughts before speaking (2. min)
- Lesson Overview by each Observed Teacher (2 min. each)
- Warm Feedback from the Observers (5 min.)

Step 2: Observations Based on the Focus (15 min.)

- Group gathers thoughts before speaking (2 min.)
- Description of what was seen and heard (no judgment or analysis)
- Sharing of data collected using any of the frames from "Looking at the Discourse of the Classroom" guide
- Mention of what was NOT seen or heard if it seems potentially illuminating

Step 3: Sense Making (15 min.)

- Looking for Patterns across and within the observed classes
- Making Interpretations grounded in what was observed
- Identifying puzzles and questions raised from the observations

Step 4: Implications (15 min.)

- What are the implications for us collectively as teachers?
- What are the implications for us as individuals?
- What needs more thought or investigation?

Step 5: Debrief (10 min.)

- Comments on the observations process itself from the Observed and the Observers
- Comments on and reaction to the protocol
- Thanks to those who opened up their classrooms for observation

* Note: This protocol may be adapted for observations conducted with another predetermined focus other than discourse.