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## Observation, Participation & Reflection Activity

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*Designed by Corey Knox, University of Arizona College of Education*

This is an activity that can be used by participants in a professional development or teacher preparation setting where lessons/activities are demonstrated by a lead instructor or fellow participants. In our trainings we divide the participants into groups where some participate as learners and others observe both the instructor and the learners. This can also be used as an observation tool when observing a lesson with students/youth.

**Objective(s):** Participants will reflect and record their thoughts per their participation or observation of demonstrated lessons/activities.

**Purpose:** To provide a structure and strategies for teachers to participate and observe in science activities conducted during a lesson demonstration. Teachers in the observation task will record their observations and will use these to think through the initial development of curriculum/lesson ideas or needs.

**Materials:**

Observation Fishbowl cards– three sets depending on the size of the group, enough for three for each observer

Observer Reflection table – 1 copy for each participant for each activity/lab

Learner Reflection table – 1 copy for each participant for each activity/lab

**Participation & Observation Instructions:**

1. Participants will divide into two groups.
2. For each activity half of the participants will observe the activity while the others participate as learners

Observers will pick 3 cards from the 'fishbowl' and pay attention to that prompt.

They will record the prompts they pulled and use it to guide their observations for that activity. *(It is hoped that by the end of the training, participants will have addressed all the items on the observation rubric.*

**Participants** will fill out the learner rubric immediately following their participation in the lab/activity.

Before the activity participants should review the questions/prompts.

Immediately after participation, participants will document feelings, experiences, and observations while you were participating in the activity. Take a few minutes to respond to as many of these questions as you'd like.

Repeat this for all labs/activities during the day (throughout the training), making sure to allow participants to experience both roles.

**Suggested Debriefing prompts and structure:**

- At the end of each day or activity, participants will debrief with the team and share ideas and observations. This can also be done after each lesson demonstration.
- Create parking lot posters – one per teacher (and fellow)
- Create one large post-it sheet for each activity: One color post-it notes for observers and another for learners.
- Possible Discussion Prompts: What common themes are expressed? How are the observer themes different than the learners' observations and vis versa? What did learners notice that observers did not? Are there new things we need to be observing for that need to added to our list?



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**Observation Fishbowl cards.** Cut along lines.

<b>Were students on task? Ideas for keeping my students on task.</b>	<b>Teamwork—how are students working together?</b>
<b>Which components seem to be the most engaging?</b>	<b>See if you can identify the intended learning objectives</b>
<b>Which components seem to be the most engaging?</b>	<b>What steps, activities do students seem confused by or when are they unengaged?</b>
<b>How does my class set-up facilitate this lab?</b>	<b>Do the steps/procedure seem clear to the students?</b>
<b>What tools, equipment do I need?</b>	<b>Are there certain students that seem less engaged? Who? Why?</b>
<b>Are all students participating</b>	<b>Who is not participating? Why?</b>

### Handout 1: Observer Recording Tool

Choose at least 2 cards from the 'fishbowl' and record your observations of the activity/lesson you are observing.

<b>Activity Title:</b>	
<b>Duration of Activity</b>	
<b>How long was the hands-on portion of the activity?</b>	
<b>Write your prompts here (selected from fish bowl)</b>	<b>Your observations:</b>
1)	
2)	
Optional: Your own prompt.	

## Handout 2: Learner/Participant Recording Tool

Address each question. Optional: Question 10 is for additional comments related to your experiences.

Activity Title:	
Day/Time	
1) What is the question you were trying to answer through this experiment?	
2) What are some of the "big science ideas" that are connected to this lab/activity	
3) How does this activity/lab/experience connect to your own skills, interests, pressing questions?	
4) How does this activity connect to your own skills, interests, pressing questions?	
5) What was exciting about this activity?	
6) What was confusing?	
7) What would I need to know before I participated in this lab/activity?	
8) What lab skills was I learning/practicing	
9) What science ideas was this activity helping me understand?	
10) Other comments, ideas, observations	