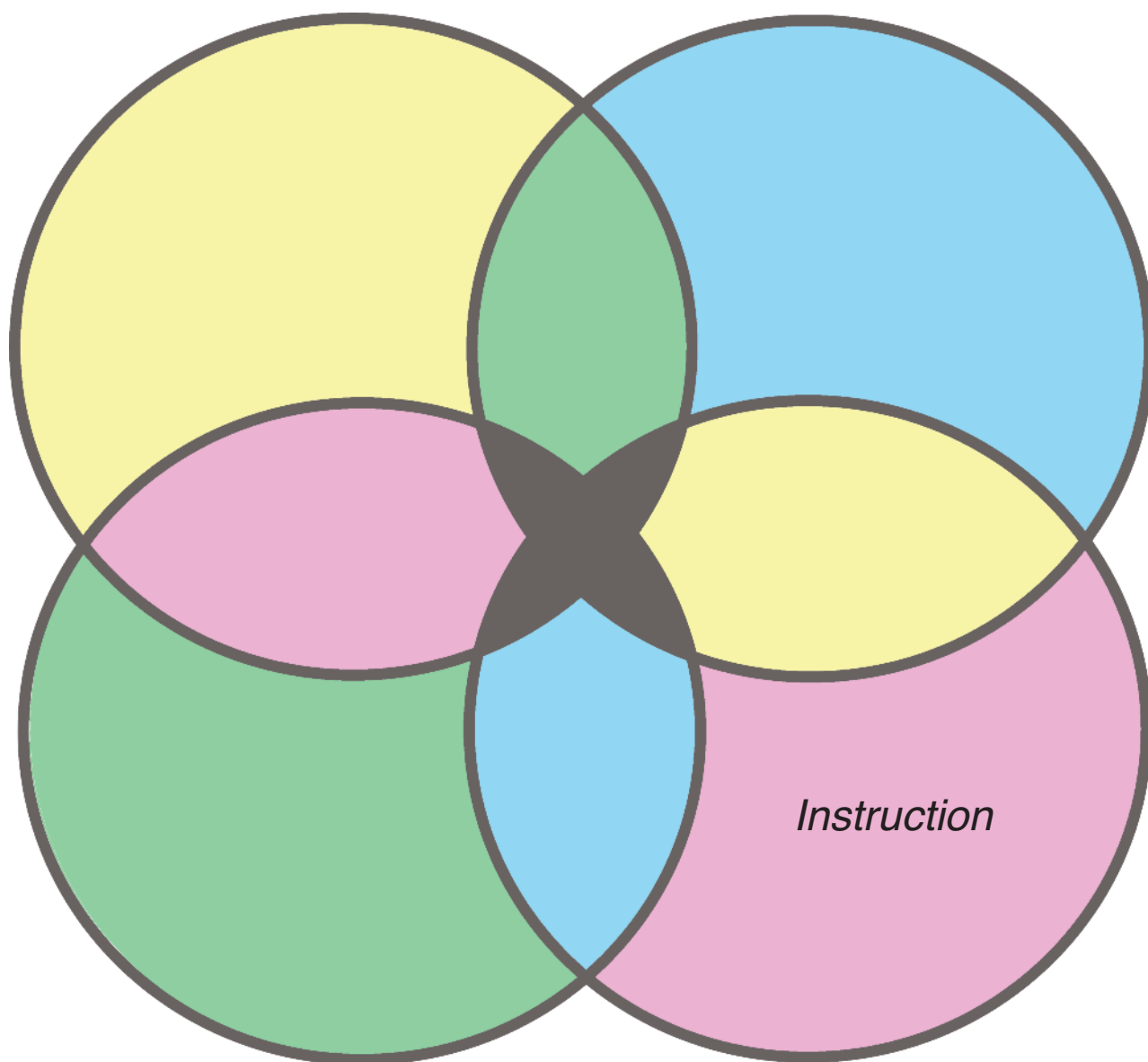


The Framework for Teaching Evaluation Instrument

DOMAIN 3 Instruction



3e Demonstrating Flexibility and Responsiveness

“Flexibility and responsiveness” refers to a teacher’s skill in making adjustments in a lesson to respond to changing conditions. When a lesson is well planned, there may be no need for changes during the course of the lesson itself. Shifting the approach in midstream is not always necessary; in fact, with experience comes skill in accurately predicting how a lesson will go and readiness for different possible scenarios. But even the most-skilled and best-prepared teachers will on occasion find that either a lesson is not going as they would like or that a teachable moment has presented itself. They are ready to respond to such situations. Furthermore, teachers who are committed to the learning of all students persist in their attempts to engage each student in learning, even when confronted with initial setbacks. Elements of component 3e:

Lesson adjustment

Experienced teachers are able to make both minor and (when needed) major adjustments to a lesson, a mid-course correction. Such adjustments depend on a teacher’s store of alternate instructional strategies and his or her confidence to make a shift when needed.

Response to students

Occasionally during a lesson an unexpected event will occur which presents a true teachable moment. It is a mark of considerable teacher skill to be able to capitalize on such opportunities.

Persistence

Committed teachers don’t give up easily; when students encounter difficulty in learning (which all do at some point) these teachers seek alternate approaches to help their students be successful. In these efforts, teachers display a keen sense of efficacy.

Indicators:

- Incorporation of student interests and events of the day into a lesson
- Visible adjustment in the face of student lack of understanding
- Teacher seizing on a teachable moment

3e Demonstrating Flexibility and Responsiveness—Possible Examples

Unsatisfactory	Basic	Proficient	Distinguished
<p>The teacher says: “We don’t have time for that today.”</p> <p>The teacher makes no attempt to adjust the lesson when students appear confused.</p> <p>The teacher says: “If you’d just pay attention, you could understand this.”</p>	<p>The teacher says: “I’ll try to think of another way to come at this and get back to you.”</p> <p>The teacher says: “I realize not everyone understands this, but we can’t spend any more time on it.”</p> <p>The teacher re-arranges the way the students are grouped in an attempt to help students understand the lesson.</p>	<p>The teacher says: “That’s an interesting idea; let’s see how it fits.”</p> <p>The teacher illustrates a principle of good writing to a student using his interest in basketball as context.</p> <p>The teacher says: “Let’s try this way and then uses another approach.”</p>	<p>The teacher stops in midstream in a lesson, and says: “This activity doesn’t seem to be working! Here’s another way I’d like you to try it.”</p> <p>The teacher incorporates the school’s upcoming championship game into an explanation of averages.</p> <p>The teacher says: “If we have to come back to this tomorrow, we will; it’s really important that you understand it.”</p>

UNSATISFACTORY	BASIC
<p>Teacher adheres to the instruction plan in spite of evidence of poor student understanding or lack of interest.</p> <p>Teacher ignores student questions; when students experience difficulty, the teacher blames the students or their home environment.</p>	<p>Teacher attempts to modify the lesson when needed and to respond to student questions and interests, with moderate success.</p> <p>Teacher accepts responsibility for student success but has only a limited repertoire of strategies to draw upon.</p>

Critical Attributes

<p>Teacher ignores indications of student boredom or lack of understanding.</p> <p>Teacher brushes aside student questions.</p> <p>Teacher makes no attempt to incorporate student interests into the lesson.</p> <p>The teacher conveys to students that when they have difficulty learning it is their fault.</p> <p>In reflecting on practice, the teacher does not indicate that it is important to reach all students.</p>	<p>Teacher's efforts to modify the lesson are only partially successful.</p> <p>Teacher makes perfunctory attempts to incorporate student questions and interests into the lesson.</p> <p>The teacher conveys a sense to students of their own responsibility for their learning but is uncertain about how to assist them.</p> <p>In reflecting on practice, the teacher indicates the desire to reach all students but does not suggest strategies to do so.</p>
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PROFICIENT	DISTINGUISHED
<p>Teacher promotes the successful learning of all students, making minor adjustments as needed to instruction plans and accommodating student questions, needs, and interests.</p> <p>Drawing on a broad repertoire of strategies, the teacher persists in seeking approaches for students who have difficulty learning.</p>	<p>Teacher seizes an opportunity to enhance learning, building on a spontaneous event or student interests, or successfully adjusts and differentiates instruction to address individual student misunderstandings.</p> <p>Teacher persists in seeking effective approaches for students who need help, using an extensive repertoire of instructional strategies and soliciting additional resources from the school or community.</p>

<p>When necessary, the teacher makes adjustments to the lesson to enhance understanding by groups of students.</p> <p>Teacher incorporates students' interests and questions into the heart of the lesson.</p> <p>The teacher conveys to students that s/he has other approaches to try when the students experience difficulty.</p> <p>In reflecting on practice, the teacher cites multiple approaches undertaken to reach students having difficulty.</p>	<p>In addition to the characteristics of "proficient":</p> <p>The teacher's adjustments to the lesson are designed to assist individual students.</p> <p>Teacher seizes on a teachable moment to enhance a lesson.</p> <p>The teacher conveys to students that s/he won't consider a lesson "finished" until every student understands and that s/he has a broad range of approaches to use.</p> <p>In reflecting on practice, the teacher can cite others in the school and beyond whom s/he has contacted for assistance in reaching some students.</p>
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