

Name: _____

Teacher Effectiveness and Growth Collaborative Work Session (Dec 6, 2013)

Pre-Consultancy Reflection

In preparation for your consultancy protocol, please use these guiding questions to---

- Identify a question about your practice
- Select 3 consecutive lessons from a unit of study that you would like to sharpen.

- 1) What questions do I have about my practice as an educator? What areas (in reflection of my self rating on the teaching standard strand) would I like to improve in?
- 2) What questions (from #1) most directly impact student learning? How?
- 3) Of the question identified in #2, which ONE question do I want to learn more about from other colleagues? Why?
- 4) What part/aspect of my lesson relates most directly to the identified question? How does it relate?
- 5) What kind of feedback do you want to help you adapt your practice to improve student learning?
Cool? Warm?

Drafting your Dilemma—A 4 Step Approach

1) Think about your dilemma

Dilemmas deal with issues you are struggling with or unsure about. A few questions to determine if it is a dilemma include: •Is it something that is bothering you enough that your thoughts regularly return to the dilemma? •Is it an issue that is not already on its way to being resolved? •Is it an issue that does not depend on getting other people to change (within your locus of control, you can impact the dilemma by changing your practice)? •Is it something important to you and something you are willing to work on?

2) Frame a Focus Questions for your Consultancy Team

Pose a question around the dilemma that is at the heart of the matter. The question you pose will guide the group, their discussion and feedback to you.

Focus Question:

3) Critique your focus question.

Is this important to my practice?

Is this important to student learning?

Could this be important to other teachers and staff?

Consultancies are not needed when participants bring dilemmas that they are on their way to figuring out. Is this something that is ***still*** puzzling you about your practice?

4) Write a contextual description to establish understanding. If you prefer not to write it out, you can make notes for yourself and do an oral presentation, but think about how you will accurately and completely contextualize and frame your dilemma to a group who will likely know little about it. Remember to end your dilemma description with your focus question above.

Dilemma Examples:

- 1) Our staff values the idea of students learning in context of real life issues and connection to the community, but that is challenging to do with this lesson topic. Question: How can I enrich my lesson to include authentic ways to connect to the community, student action and experience?
- 2) My lesson has a solid pre and post assessment component, but is lacking in ways I could check for understanding in an effective and efficient way. Question: What way can I incorporate sustainable, effective, on-going progress monitoring into my plans? How could I include students in the process of self-monitoring?
- 3) My goal is to involve every student in authentic intellectual work. Question: How do I eliminate “busy work”, focus my lesson activities on authentic intellectual work? How can monitor this?
- 4) My goal is to ensure I am as culturally inclusive as possible, affirming student identity and supporting students in developing their own sense of self and identity. Question: What could I change or modify in my lesson/unit to support that goal?
- 5) I have struggled with how to manage space, transitions, and materials within this complex lesson so that time is used effectively. Question: How can I structure my classroom environment/materials/transitions to support focus on my objective?
- 6) My goal is to include multiple perspectives in my activities, materials and instructional strategies. Question: How could I modify this lesson to be as multicultural and multi-faceted as possible?
- 7) My students need a variety of supports and I am building my ability to differentiate. Question: What differentiation strategies and ideas could be included in my lesson to support students with _____ skill?
- 8) Question: How can I strengthen the alignment of my lesson objectives, activities, assessments (formative and beyond) and homework?