

Guide to Using the EL Observation Tool

GENERAL

When observing your student, please remember:

- There are two ways you will gather data: 1) a quantitative “snapshot” taken at the top of the 3-minute mark; and 2) qualitative data at and in-between the 3-minute interval. These include student actions, key phrases from student talk, and relevant teacher moves.
- Position yourself in full view of the student you will be shadowing (you may have to adjust or move around the classroom at times).
- Try not to give away the identity of the student you are watching to the student, other students, or the teacher. You may observe other students during the 3-minute intervals. You want to note your observations of other students separately.
- Academic speaking and listening denotes student talk about academic content even when students use a range of language register (social to academic language). Please note the evidence of social or academic language use in the qualitative notes section.

CODING ABBREVIATIONS & EXPLANATIONS

The coding is best to lift patterns AFTER you take the qualitative notes. If you are comfortable with the abbreviations, you may use these as short-hand when taking notes.

Output vs. Interaction	Academic vs. Social Register	Teacher moves: While the primary focus of ELL Shadowing is the focal student, you may also note teacher actions.
<p>OP = Output: When a student merely shares an answer without having to respond to something that was shared. An important foundational step towards engaging in authentic interaction. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think-Pair-Share • Round Robin <p>INT = Interaction: Requires students to co-construct meaning through discussion and multiple listening and speaking turns. Student sharing has an effect on the other student/s. Examples of student actions that indicate interaction include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • asking clarifying or probing questions • adding on to others’ ideas • agreeing or disagreeing • paraphrasing and clarify 	<p>AL = Academic Language: Formal language that includes precise, discipline-specific academic vocabulary and discourse. Essential for success in school.</p> <p>SL = Social Language: Informal, general language of everyday communication.</p>	<p>Types of Teacher Questions:</p> <p>CQ = Closed question (generally a question with a “right” answer or narrow response usually answered with a single word or phrase)</p> <p>OPQ = Open-ended question (generally a question with no “right answer” or requiring the respondent to think and reflect usually seeks a longer and developed answer)</p> <p>FQ = Follow-up questions, especially those that require students to elaborate or explain their thinking</p> <p>Other:</p> <p>SCAF = Language Scaffolds (word bank, sentence frames, graphic organizers, etc.)</p> <p>GLT = Grade level task</p> <p>NGLT = Non-grade level task</p> <p>GLRM = Grade level reading material</p> <p>NGLRM = Non-grade level reading material</p>