

## Focused Observation

On page 11 in the Practicum Evaluation Protocol you will find a Focused Feedback tool. This is a handy tool that can be initiated by either you or your Teacher Candidate.

One positive attribute of the Focused Feedback tool is that it provides a framework for providing descriptive feedback to Teacher Candidates. Rather than evaluating or judging a Teacher Candidate's performance as being successful or effective, descriptive feedback essentially provides the Teacher Candidate with "data" to consider or reflect upon after the lesson has taken place.

Let's consider this scenario... you and your Teacher Candidate have been discussing the types of questions that students are asked during a lesson. You want your Teacher Candidate to ask high level questions that require students to evaluate, apply or connect their thinking to real world situations. The next time you observe your Teacher Candidate teaching, you might suggest that you will scribe all the questions your Teacher Candidate asks during a lesson. After the lesson is complete, you simply provide your Teacher Candidate with the data you collected and allow the Teacher Candidate to reflect on the questions that he or she asked the students.

You would then take your lead from your Teacher Candidate as to how much input you need to provide in this reflection process. Your Teacher Candidate may simply need you there to share ideas and create a plan for their next lesson. For example, your Teacher Candidate may decide that he or she will pre plan the important questions they will ask by writing them out in their lesson plans. It is great when your Teacher Candidate comes up with their plan for next steps rather than being told what they need to do as it places the ownership of the idea on them. If your Teacher Candidate is lost for ideas, then you may need to

provide some suggestions or resources to help them develop their questioning skills.

Both you and your Teacher Candidate may complete the Focused Feedback form provided on page 11. It is good for each of you to keep a record of this feedback. Teacher Candidates could refer back to this experience when they are working on their portfolios or professional learning plans. You can find a pdf version of the Practicum Evaluation Protocol in The Mentor Teacher Resource Room at [mtrr.blog.yorku.ca](http://mtrr.blog.yorku.ca). Just click on the Mentor Teacher Resource tab. Thank you again for supporting our York University Teacher Candidates.