



Sample Video Observations Focus Group Script

Thank you for taking the time to speak with us. As you may know, we are interested in learning more about your use of video observations this year. Your feedback will go directly toward helping us understand what was valuable about this experience and what will make this experience better. There are no “right or wrong” answers during this focus group. The purpose is to learn as much as possible about your observation experience this year, from planning your lesson to receiving feedback. I will act as moderator and guide the discussion, but you should speak with each other, not just me. I will pause for a long time to ensure that everyone has a chance to speak. Do you have any questions for me before we begin?

I'd like to ask that while this conversation is informal, it would help me if you would say your name when you respond to a question. Can each of you tell the group your name, your school, the grades you teach, and what class(es) you videotaped?

1. What was it like watching your own classroom lessons? [10 minutes]

- Did you see anything in the videos (students' behavior, things you thought you said, things that you did not remember saying) which you were not aware of while you were teaching the lesson?
- Did you change anything about the way you teach after seeing yourself? If so, please tell us about it.

2. What factors did you use to select the videotaped lessons you used for observation? [10 minutes]

- Was the video your best? If not, why?
- How reflective of your everyday teaching performance was the taped lesson?
- Did you seek out support about particular challenges or students?

3. Was your feedback conversation different than a typical conversation following an in person observation? How? [10 minutes]

- Did you watch or use video clips in the conversation with your observer? Was that helpful?
- How was the conversation different than the typical post-observation discussion?
- Did you walk away feeling motivated to seek out new PD or resources?

4. Can you recall a specific example of receiving feedback that helped you improve? Tell us about it. [10 minutes]

- What made that feedback helpful? (specificity, timing, tone, suggestions)

5. Tell us about your experience using the technology. [10 minutes]

- Overall, what did you like about the camera?
- What gave you difficulty?
- What about the online video platform- what did you like?

6. How can we provide you with additional guidance and support? [5 minutes]

Thank you very much for sharing your thoughts. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your experience? [5 minutes]