

TEACHING DIMENSIONS OBSERVATION PROTOCOL (TDOP)

I. Observer Information

1. Observer name: _____
2. Date and time of observation: _____
3. Purpose of observation: _____

II. Instructor Characteristics

1. Instructor name: _____
2. Appointment type: _____
3. Sex: _____

III. Course Characteristics

1. Class name: _____
2. Course level: _____
3. Department: _____
4. What is the total number of students in the class at the time of the observation?
 25 or fewer 100-200
 26-50 200-300
 51-100 300+
5. Please describe the physical layout of the room (e.g., type of student seating, instructor on dias, etc)
6. Please note if there is anything unusual about this particular class/lecture (e.g., quiz day, first day of semester, etc)

Citation for this instrument: Hora, M., & Ferrare, J.. (2010). The Teaching Dimensions Observation Protocol (TDOP). Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin-Madison, Wisconsin Center for Education Research.

Note: This protocol was largely adapted from Osthoff, E., Clune, W., Ferrare, J., Kretchmar, K., & White, P. (2009). Implementing immersion: Design, professional development, classroom enactment and learning effects of an extended science inquiry unit in an urban district. Madison: University of Wisconsin-Madison, Wisconsin Center for Educational Research.

Observation Code Bank

The following list of codes includes only code definitions. For more extensive discussion of coding rules and different instructional scenarios that will likely be encountered, please consult the “TDOP Coding Rules” document.

Teaching Methods

- L** **Lecture:** The instructor is talking to the students and not using any visuals or demonstration equipment.
- LPV** **Lecture with pre-made visuals:** The instructor is talking to the students while using pre-made visual aides, such as slides, transparencies, posters, pre-written chalkboard notes, etc. The instructor must be referring to topic contained in the visual.
- LHV** **Lecture with handwritten visuals:** The instructor is talking to the students while actively writing and presenting notes, creating charts/diagrams (must either be writing or referring to what they are writing).
- LDEM** **Lecturing with demonstration of topic or phenomena:** The instructor uses equipment (e.g., lab equipment, computer simulation, or other physical objects) to convey course content. The objects must be in active use in relation to topic.
- LINT** **Interactive lecture:** The instructor is talking to the students while asking multiple, successive questions to which the students are responding, and student responses are either guiding or being integrated within the discussion.
- SGW** **Small group work/discussion:** Students form into groups of 2+ for the purposes of discussion and/or to complete task.
- DW** **Deskwork:** Students complete work alone at their desk/chair.
- CD** **Whole class discussion:** Students are answering and asking questions amongst themselves for a sustained period of time. This is different than an interactive lecture in which the instructor is directing all of the questions.
- MM** **Multimedia:** The instructor plays a video or movie (e.g., youtube or documentary) without speaking and while the students watch.
- WP** **Working out problems:** This code refers to the instructor actively working out computations or problems. These can include balancing a chemical equation, working out a mathematical proof, and so on. The intent of the code is to capture the working through computational problems in front of students.
- SP** **Student presentation:** The students are giving presentations to the class or otherwise acting as the primary speaker or instructor in the classroom. In this instance, only select this code and none others as long as the primary instructor is not actively teaching the class.

Pedagogical Moves

- MOV** **Moves into audience:** The instructor walks up aisles or enters the student seating area of classroom.
- HUM** **Humor:** The instructor tells jokes or humorous anecdotes; this code requires laughter from students.
- RDS** **Reads:** The instructor reads verbatim from prepared notes, text or PowerPoint slides; must be extensive reading and not just reading slide headings or definitions and then elaborating extemporaneously.
- IL** **Illustration:** The instructor uses real-world examples or illustrations to demonstrate, show, or otherwise convey course content. Anecdotes and stories that are not substantive demonstrations or illustrations of the course material should not be coded.
- GR** **Graphic:** The instructor uses some sort of visual illustration or graphic while teaching (drawing, slide, etc).
- ORG** **Organization:** The instructor writes or posts outline of class or clearly (and verbally) indicates transition from one topic to the next, including transitions from previous class to the present class.
- EMP** **Emphasis:** The instructor clearly states that something is important for students to learn or remember.
- A** **Assessment:** The students take a test or quiz, or are asked a question verbally or through the use of clickers that explicitly seeks content-related knowledge from the students.
- AT** **Administrative task:** The instructor and/or students make announcements, discuss upcoming assignments or exams, or engaging in other logistical tasks.
- PI** **Peer interactions:** Students speaking to one another.

Instructor/Student Interactions (Types of Q&A)

- RQ** **Instructor rhetorical question:** The instructor asks a question without seeking an answer and without giving students an opportunity to answer the question.
- DQ** **Instructor display question:** The instructor seeks a specific factual or conceptual answer, or asks students to solve a computational problem or a conceptual dilemma.
- CQ** **Instructor comprehension question:** The instructor checks for understanding (e.g., “Does that make sense?”) and pauses for at least two seconds, thereby indicating an opportunity for students to respond.

- SNQ Student novel question:** A student poses a question to the instructor that seeks new information (i.e. not asking to clarify a concept that was previously being discussed).
- SCQ Student comprehension question:** A student poses a question to the instructor that seeks clarification of a concept that is part of the current or past class period.
- SR Student response:** A student responds to a question posed by the instructor.

Cognitive Engagement (of students)

- RRI Reciting and/or memorizing facts:** Students are provided **verbal or handwritten** definitions of terms or equations, or are asked to define a term or recall basic facts through a verbal question or clicker question.
- PS Problem solving:** Students are asked to apply understand and solve an analytic process. This includes computations or evaluation of conceptual dilemmas, and is evident through explicit verbal requests to solve a problem, or to engage in thought experiments or conceptual dilemmas that require students to consider alternatives and identify solutions.
- CR Creating:** Students engage in creating their own ideas or products, as indicated by instructors providing opportunities for students to be creative and/or generate their own ideas and products. The outcome is open-ended rather than fixed.
- CN Connections to the real world:** Students make connections between the course material and their daily lives, as indicated by instructors using illustrations that link material to popular culture, the local environment, etc.

Student Engagement

- VHI Very High:** More than 75% of the students in the immediate area of the observer are either (a) actively taking notes, or (b) looking at the instructor/course materials
- HI High:** Between 50% and 75% of the students in the immediate area of the observer are either (a) actively taking notes, or (b) looking at the instructor
- MED Medium:** Between 25% and 50% of the students in the immediate area of the observer are either (a) actively taking notes, or (b) looking at the instructor
- LO Low:** Less than 25% of the students in the immediate area of the observer are either (a) actively taking notes, or (b) looking at the instructor

Instructional Technology

- PO Poster:** Posters such as the periodic table or a map of tectonic plates.
- B Book (s):** Books used during the class period.
- P Pointer** (e.g., laser pointer, metal pointer)
- CB Chalk-board/white-board**
- OP Overhead/transparencies**
- PP Powerpoint or other digital slides**
- CL Clickers**
- D Demonstration equipment**
- DT Digital tablet:** This refers to any technology where the instructor can actively write on a document or graphic that is being projected onto a screen. This includes document cameras as well as software on a laptop that allows for writing on pdf files.
- M Movie, documentary, video clips, or Youtube video**
- SI Simulation:** Simulations can be digital applets or web-based applications.
- WEB Website:** Includes reference to course website or other online resource (besides Youtube videos) as active part of instruction.

See pages 2-3 for Code Key and Instructions for completing grid.

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Min	0-1:59	2:00-3:59	4:00-5:59	6:00-7:59	8:00-9:59	10:00-11:59
Instruct. Method	L LPV LHV LDEM LINT SGW DW CD MM SP WP	L LPV LHV LDEM LINT SGW DW CD MM SP WP	L LPV LHV LDEM LINT SGW DW CD MM SP WP	L LPV LHV LDEM LINT SGW DW CD MM SP WP	L LPV LHV LDEM LINT SGW DW CD MM SP WP	L LPV LHV LDEM LINT SGW DW CD MM SP WP
Notes: Include brief description of any instances of the instructor scaffolding the material throughout the class.						
Ped. Moves	MOV HUM RDS IL GR ORG EMP A AT PI	MOV HUM RDS IL GR ORG EMP A AT PI	MOV HUM RDS IL GR ORG EMP A AT PI	MOV HUM RDS IL GR ORG EMP A AT PI	MOV HUM RDS IL GR ORG EMP A AT PI	MOV HUM RDS IL GR ORG EMP A AT PI
Notes:						
Instruct/ Student Interact.	RQ DQ CQ SNQ SCQ SR	RQ DQ CQ SNQ SCQ SR	RQ DQ CQ SNQ SCQ SR	RQ DQ CQ SNQ SCQ SR	RQ DQ CQ SNQ SCQ SR	RQ DQ CQ SNQ SCQ SR
Notes:						
Cognitive Engage.	RRI PS CR CN	RRI PS CR CN	RRI PS CR CN	RRI PS CR CN	RRI PS CR CN	RRI PS CR CN
Notes:						
Student Engage.	VHI HI MED LO	VHI HI MED LO	VHI HI MED LO	VHI HI MED LO	VHI HI MED LO	VHI HI MED LO
Instruct. Techn.	PO B P CB OP PP CL D DT M SI WEB	PO B P CB OP PP CL D DT M SI WEB	PO B P CB OP PP CL D DT M SI WEB	PO B P CB OP PP CL D DT M SI WEB	PO B P CB OP PP CL D DT M SI WEB	PO B P CB OP PP CL D DT M SI WEB
Notes:						

	7	8	9	10	11	12
Min	12:00-13:59	14:00-15:59	16:00-17:59	18:00-19:59	20:00-21:59	22:00-23:59
Instruct. Method	L LPV LHV LDEM LINT SGW DW CD MM SP WP	L LPV LHV LDEM LINT SGW DW CD MM SP WP	L LPV LHV LDEM LINT SGW DW CD MM SP WP	L LPV LHV LDEM LINT SGW DW CD MM SP WP	L LPV LHV LDEM LINT SGW DW CD MM SP WP	L LPV LHV LDEM LINT SGW DW CD MM SP WP
Notes:						
Ped. Moves	MOV HUM RDS IL GR ORG EMP A AT PI	MOV HUM RDS IL GR ORG EMP A AT PI	MOV HUM RDS IL GR ORG EMP A AT PI	MOV HUM RDS IL GR ORG EMP A AT PI	MOV HUM RDS IL GR ORG EMP A AT PI	MOV HUM RDS IL GR ORG EMP A AT PI
Notes:						
Instruct/ Student Interact.	RQ DQ CQ SNQ SCQ SR	RQ DQ CQ SNQ SCQ SR	RQ DQ CQ SNQ SCQ SR	RQ DQ CQ SNQ SCQ SR	RQ DQ CQ SNQ SCQ SR	RQ DQ CQ SNQ SCQ SR
Notes:						
Cognitive Engage.	RRI PS CR CN	RRI PS CR CN	RRI PS CR CN	RRI PS CR CN	RRI PS CR CN	RRI PS CR CN
Notes:						
Student Engage.	VHI HI MED LO	VHI HI MED LO	VHI HI MED LO	VHI HI MED LO	VHI HI MED LO	VHI HI MED LO
Instruct. Techn.	PO B P CB OP PP CL D DT M SI WEB	PO B P CB OP PP CL D DT M SI WEB	PO B P CB OP PP CL D DT M SI WEB	PO B P CB OP PP CL D DT M SI WEB	PO B P CB OP PP CL D DT M SI WEB	PO B P CB OP PP CL D DT M SI WEB
Notes:						

	13	14	15	16	17	18
Min	24:00-25:59	26:00-27:59	28:00-29:59	30:00-31:59	32:00-33:59	34:00-35:59
Instruct. Method	L LPV LHV LDEM LINT SGW DW CD MM SP WP	L LPV LHV LDEM LINT SGW DW CD MM SP WP	L LPV LHV LDEM LINT SGW DW CD MM SP WP	L LPV LHV LDEM LINT SGW DW CD MM SP WP	L LPV LHV LDEM LINT SGW DW CD MM SP WP	L LPV LHV LDEM LINT SGW DW CD MM SP WP
Notes:						
Ped. Moves	MOV HUM RDS IL GR ORG EMP A AT PI	MOV HUM RDS IL GR ORG EMP A AT PI	MOV HUM RDS IL GR ORG EMP A AT PI	MOV HUM RDS IL GR ORG EMP A AT PI	MOV HUM RDS IL GR ORG EMP A AT PI	MOV HUM RDS IL GR ORG EMP A AT PI
Notes:						
Instruct/ Student Interact.	RQ DQ CQ SNQ SCQ SR	RQ DQ CQ SNQ SCQ SR	RQ DQ CQ SNQ SCQ SR	RQ DQ CQ SNQ SCQ SR	RQ DQ CQ SNQ SCQ SR	RQ DQ CQ SNQ SCQ SR
Notes:						
Cognitive Engage.	RRI PS CR CN	RRI PS CR CN	RRI PS CR CN	RRI PS CR CN	RRI PS CR CN	RRI PS CR CN
Notes:						
Student Engage.	VHI HI MED LO	VHI HI MED LO	VHI HI MED LO	VHI HI MED LO	VHI HI MED LO	VHI HI MED LO
Instruct. Techn.	PO B P CB OP PP CL D DT M SI WEB	PO B P CB OP PP CL D DT M SI WEB	PO B P CB OP PP CL D DT M SI WEB	PO B P CB OP PP CL D DT M SI WEB	PO B P CB OP PP CL D DT M SI WEB	PO B P CB OP PP CL D DT M SI WEB
Notes:						

	19	20	21	22	23	24
Min.	36:00-37:59	38:00-39:59	40:00-41:59	42:00-43:59	44:00-45:59	46:00-47:59
Instruct. Method	L LPV LHV LDEM LINT SGW DW CD MM SP WP	L LPV LHV LDEM LINT SGW DW CD MM SP WP	L LPV LHV LDEM LINT SGW DW CD MM SP WP	L LPV LHV LDEM LINT SGW DW CD MM SP WP	L LPV LHV LDEM LINT SGW DW CD MM SP WP	L LPV LHV LDEM LINT SGW DW CD MM SP WP
Notes:						
Ped. Moves	MOV HUM RDS IL GR ORG EMP A AT PI	MOV HUM RDS IL GR ORG EMP A AT PI	MOV HUM RDS IL GR ORG EMP A AT PI	MOV HUM RDS IL GR ORG EMP A AT PI	MOV HUM RDS IL GR ORG EMP A AT PI	MOV HUM RDS IL GR ORG EMP A AT PI
Notes:						
Instruct/ Student Interact.	RQ DQ CQ SNQ SCQ SR	RQ DQ CQ SNQ SCQ SR	RQ DQ CQ SNQ SCQ SR	RQ DQ CQ SNQ SCQ SR	RQ DQ CQ SNQ SCQ SR	RQ DQ CQ SNQ SCQ SR
Notes:						
Cognitive Engage.	RRI PS CR CN	RRI PS CR CN	RRI PS CR CN	RRI PS CR CN	RRI PS CR CN	RRI PS CR CN
Notes:						
Student Engage.	VHI HI MED LO	VHI HI MED LO	VHI HI MED LO	VHI HI MED LO	VHI HI MED LO	VHI HI MED LO
Instruct. Techn.	PO B P CB OP PP CL D DT M SI WEB	PO B P CB OP PP CL D DT M SI WEB	PO B P CB OP PP CL D DT M SI WEB	PO B P CB OP PP CL D DT M SI WEB	PO B P CB OP PP CL D DT M SI WEB	PO B P CB OP PP CL D DT M SI WEB
Notes:						

	25	26	27	28	29	30
Min.	48:00-49:59	50:00-51:59	52:00-53:59	54:00-55:59	56:00-57:59	58:00-59:59
Instruct. Method	L LPV LHV LDEM LINT SGW DW CD MM SP WP	L LPV LHV LDEM LINT SGW DW CD MM SP WP	L LPV LHV LDEM LINT SGW DW CD MM SP WP	L LPV LHV LDEM LINT SGW DW CD MM SP WP	L LPV LHV LDEM LINT SGW DW CD MM SP WP	L LPV LHV LDEM LINT SGW DW CD MM SP WP
Notes:						
Ped. Moves	MOV HUM RDS IL GR ORG EMP A AT PI	MOV HUM RDS IL GR ORG EMP A AT PI	MOV HUM RDS IL GR ORG EMP A AT PI	MOV HUM RDS IL GR ORG EMP A AT PI	MOV HUM RDS IL GR ORG EMP A AT PI	MOV HUM RDS IL GR ORG EMP A AT PI
Notes:						
Instruct/ Student Interact.	RQ DQ CQ SNQ SCQ SR	RQ DQ CQ SNQ SCQ SR	RQ DQ CQ SNQ SCQ SR	RQ DQ CQ SNQ SCQ SR	RQ DQ CQ SNQ SCQ SR	RQ DQ CQ SNQ SCQ SR
Notes:						
Cognitive Engage.	RRI PS CR CN	RRI PS CR CN	RRI PS CR CN	RRI PS CR CN	RRI PS CR CN	RRI PS CR CN
Notes:						
Student Engage.	VHI HI MED LO	VHI HI MED LO	VHI HI MED LO	VHI HI MED LO	VHI HI MED LO	VHI HI MED LO
Instruct. Techn.	PO B P CB OP PP CL D DT M SI WEB	PO B P CB OP PP CL D DT M SI WEB	PO B P CB OP PP CL D DT M SI WEB	PO B P CB OP PP CL D DT M SI WEB	PO B P CB OP PP CL D DT M SI WEB	PO B P CB OP PP CL D DT M SI WEB
Notes:						

	31	32	33	34	35	36
Min.	1:00-1:01:59	1:02-1:03:59	1:04-1:05:59	1:06-1:07:59	1:08-1:09:59	1:10-1:11:59
Instruct. Method	L LPV LHV LDEM LINT SGW DW CD MM SP WP	L LPV LHV LDEM LINT SGW DW CD MM SP WP	L LPV LHV LDEM LINT SGW DW CD MM SP WP	L LPV LHV LDEM LINT SGW DW CD MM SP WP	L LPV LHV LDEM LINT SGW DW CD MM SP WP	L LPV LHV LDEM LINT SGW DW CD MM SP WP
Notes:						
Ped. Moves	MOV HUM RDS IL GR ORG EMP A AT PI	MOV HUM RDS IL GR ORG EMP A AT PI	MOV HUM RDS IL GR ORG EMP A AT PI	MOV HUM RDS IL GR ORG EMP A AT PI	MOV HUM RDS IL GR ORG EMP A AT PI	MOV HUM RDS IL GR ORG EMP A AT PI
Notes:						
Instruct/ Student Interact.	RQ DQ CQ SNQ SCQ SR	RQ DQ CQ SNQ SCQ SR	RQ DQ CQ SNQ SCQ SR	RQ DQ CQ SNQ SCQ SR	RQ DQ CQ SNQ SCQ SR	RQ DQ CQ SNQ SCQ SR
Notes:						
Cognitive Engage.	RRI PS CR CN	RRI PS CR CN	RRI PS CR CN	RRI PS CR CN	RRI PS CR CN	RRI PS CR CN
Notes:						
Student Engage.	VHI HI MED LO	VHI HI MED LO	VHI HI MED LO	VHI HI MED LO	VHI HI MED LO	VHI HI MED LO
Instruct. Techn.	PO B P CB OP PP CL D DT M SI WEB	PO B P CB OP PP CL D DT M SI WEB	PO B P CB OP PP CL D DT M SI WEB	PO B P CB OP PP CL D DT M SI WEB	PO B P CB OP PP CL D DT M SI WEB	PO B P CB OP PP CL D DT M SI WEB
Notes:						