



Essential Skills for Classroom Observation

Course Overview: Do you know what has the biggest impact on student achievement? The teacher! Research invariably shows that student achievement improves by having a high quality and highly effective teacher. Administrators are so busy with daily school demands that finding time to mentor and develop teachers can be a real challenge. But it is so important! This 8.5 hour course provides an overview of the importance of teacher evaluation and builds foundation skills in classroom observation. Gain insight from three top educational experts, Robert Marzano, Charlotte Danielson and James Stronge. Regardless of which teacher evaluation framework being used in your school system, you will gain insight from the experts and build inter-rater reliability with the practice opportunities.

Objectives

- Recognize the importance of a clear definition of good teaching
- Build skills in gathering evidence and determining levels of performance
- Gain confidence in classroom observation

Outline

1. Unit 1: Central Ideas and Skills
 - Discussion: Which components are central to good teaching? *(30 min)*
 - 10 Signs Your School Is Too Focused on the State Test! *(5 min)*
 - EI Video: The Impact of Quality Teachers: by Robert Marzano *(17 min)*
 - EI Video: Introducing Charlotte Danielson *(25 min)*
 - EI Video: Are you gathering evidence? *(50 min)*
 - EI Assessment: The Quest for Teacher Quality *(20 min)*
2. Unit 2: Practice
 - EI Video: Observe Ms Hatch's lesson and gather evidence *(52 min)*
 - Reflection *(20 min)*
 - Determine levels of performance *(60 min)*
 - Do you agree with Charlotte's analysis of Ms Hatch's Lesson? *(45 min)*
3. Unit 3: Build Inter-rater Reliability
 - Evaluation Practice: Elementary Classroom *(90 min)*
 - Evaluation Practice: Middle School Math Classroom *(90 min)*
 - Evaluation Practice: High School Social Studies Classroom *(90 min)*
4. Summary: Recommendations by Dr. James Stronge *(90 min)*



Resources This self-paced course includes a combination of

- Streaming video and assignments from Educational Impact's (EI) [online academy](#)*
- Non-EI video from other educational websites and video sources
- Reading materials and articles
- Personal reflections and independent writing activities
- Other performance tasks designed to extend professional learning into professional practice.
- Group discussion boards (If this course is taken with colleagues in a professional learning community or other group environment)

Note* [EI Online Academy](#): This course requires you to view specific video segments from the EI Online Academy. However the **FULL** EI Online Academy is also available to you to extend your professional growth. The EI Online Academy offers access to over 400 hours of streaming video and features leading educational experts and hundreds of real classroom examples. It also includes a personal learning plan tool (PLP) and video search engine to help you target areas of specific need or interest. Even though the EI video assignments in this course are limited to content specifically related to [teacher evaluation](#), please feel free to expand your learning through the unlimited use of ALL of the resources in the EI Online Academy.

Assignments: Throughout this course you will work through a series of assignments designed to enhance your understanding of new knowledge and skills. In some cases you will be encouraged to post to your private online notebook for personal reflection. In other cases you will be asked to post to the EI instructor journal or discussion board.

- **Instructor Journal:** Instructor Journal assignment is a 1:1 discussion between you and your instructor/group leader. These postings will be cumulative and serve as an ongoing portfolio of work related to this course. Your instructor/group leader can view your responses and can comment on any of your postings. Your instructor's postings will appear inside of the Instructor Journal. If there are other learners in your group, they are NOT able to view these entries.
- **Discussion Board:** Lastly, there will be times when you are asked to post to a threaded group discussion board. The group discussion board will provide all of the learners in your group or class with opportunities for discussion, collaboration, reflection, and in certain cases peer review within their group or PLC. There will be different discussion boards created for different topics. Be sure to post to the correct discussion board... as assigned by your instructor. Leave an insightful comment and add to the thread to maintain interaction and build collaboration.



- **Reading/Writing/General Assignments:** These assignments can include an attached URL or file. Writing and General assignments also include a text box for you to provide a written response.
- **Assessments:** When whole modules of EI video are assigned, the corresponding multiple choice assessment will be included. This 20 question assessment is specific to the EI video content presented. In order to pass the assessment, you must achieve 80% (16/20). If you do not pass the assessment, you can try again. When you are successful, the EI system will mark the assessment as complete and you can access a certificate of completion.

Need help? Should you require technical assistance or have difficulty accessing any of the learning resources, please contact Educational Impact directly at 215-370-7666 or email EI Support at lmack@educationalimpact.com