Center for Leadership & Educational Equity

Silent Debriefing

Developed in the field by educators.

The primary "learner" in this protocol is the observer. The observer's only purpose is to learn how to improve their own practice from observing. Since the observer has little responsibility to the observed, the duration of the observation and even the level of attention to what's going on is determined by the observer, as long as this is all right with the person being observed. Like the "Self-Observation" protocol, this protocol addresses the time issue. "Silent Debriefing" may also significantly increase the frequency of visits to each others classrooms since observers may be able to do some quiet paperwork during their stay, and therefore are more likely to use a prep period to visit another teacher's classroom.

Pre-Observation Conference
It is not necessary to have a pre-conference unless either party would like to have one. A pre-conference would help to orient the observer as to what will be happening.

Observation
The observer focuses on whatever they wish.

Debriefing
There is no debriefing conversation between the observer and the observed other than, "Thanks for letting me visit!" Both observer and observed reflect on the observation by themselves.

It's tempting to not stick to the "no debriefing" rule afterwards, but this can cause problems in the long run for the use of this protocol in a building.

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