

Field Assignment and Planning Guide: Mathematics Clinical Interview

Field Assignment: Engaging in a mathematics clinical interview

Engage in a 10-15 minute clinical interview in your field placement or with a child in your personal life, using this planning sheet.

Make sure to video record the entire segment of instruction (from the setup through the discussion). In advance, be sure to **practice** using your video camera and please remember **to bring your charger** the day you will record.

***Take a photo of student work sample you are discussing if applicable – this photo will need to be submitted so that we can see how you built on what the student did during your conversation with them.

Preparing for your clinical interview

View your video at least once at home so you are familiar with the content, ideally with the observational tool. Bring the video to the next class where you will review and analyze it with your classmates.

Description of interview

You will lead a short clinical interview with one student. The purpose of the clinical interview is to practice eliciting and interpreting an individual student's thinking about a mathematics task. The clinical interview provides an opportunity for you to learn not only about one student's understanding of the mathematics concept, but also to build your own knowledge of the mathematics concept.

In this clinical interview, you will be working on the following instructional practices:

- 1) Eliciting student ideas and strategies for solving the problem
- 2) Listening carefully to student ideas
- 3) Developing additional questions to probe and unpack student thinking

While in a one-on-one interaction with a student you normally plan and deliver the launch and the conclusion for the interview, this is not the focus of your work for this clinical interview. You will only be having your student share their solution methods. There is a "script" for the launch and conclusion that you may use.

Launching the interview:

"I am interested in learning about what you know about [name of topic]. In order to do so, I will ask you some questions. If I ask a follow up question in response to something you say, it's not because I think you are wrong. Rather, it is because I want to clarify something you said or better understand your thinking."

Concluding the interview:

"Thank you for taking the time to share your thinking about [name of topic]."



To prepare for the clinical interview:

1. Work individually to answer the questions below (with input from classmates as needed).
2. Practice using your video camera.

Name of the student you plan to interview:

The mathematical content you would like to discuss (e.g. comparing fractions):

When are some good times in the day and what is a good space for you to use for the interview:

What have the students in the class already learned about/done with the mathematical content (ask your mentor teacher before you conduct the interview if you do not know):

What have you already observed that this student seems to understand about the mathematical content (if applicable):



What do you believe this student may not yet understand about the mathematical content (if applicable):

What do you know about this student's background and/or personality that may inform your interview (e.g. is the student an English Language Learner? Are they generally the first student to raise their hand to contribute in class, or do they tend to participate rarely?):

