

# ART<sup>is</sup> EDUCATION

## Observation Visit Guide

*These questions are intended to assist teaching artists as they prepare and plan for extended residencies in a school. The purpose of an observation visit is to provide greater familiarity with and understanding of the students and teachers with whom the teaching artist will work. This questionnaire is for artist use only but may be helpful in future conversations with the classroom teacher.*

### General Information

1. What grade level is being observed? How many students are in the class?
2. What lesson/content is being taught? What methods does the teacher use during the lesson?

### Learning Environment & Resources

3. How is the classroom arranged (e.g. desks, chairs, tables, learning stations, chalkboard, bulletin boards, clock, etc.)? Consider the size and layout of the classroom.
4. What visual aids are posted around the classroom? How are they used by the students and/or teacher?
5. What audio/visual equipment is in the room for students and the teacher to use?
6. How often do interruptions occur (e.g., announcements, classroom visitors, phone calls, etc.)?

### Student Attitudes & Behavior

7. Describe how students enter, exit and move about the room.
8. Describe the level of the students enthusiasm and engagement with the learning situation.
9. Describe the interactions between students. How do they respond to or act toward each other in both positive and negative ways?

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10. Which students stand out to you? Why?
11. Which students are especially uninvolved with the rest of the group?

## Teacher Attitudes & Behavior

12. How are the teacher's expectations communicated to the students?
13. What did the teacher do to get or maintain students' attention?
14. How did the teacher structure his/her time during the period you observed? How did the teacher transition from one activity/task to the next?
15. In what ways did the teacher give the students feedback on their learning?
16. How did the teacher respond to students' basic needs (e.g., sharpening a pencil, using the restroom, etc.)?

## Teacher Interview Questions (if time allows)

17. Are any students absent? How many students are typically absent on a given day?
18. Which students have special needs?
19. Are they receiving special services outside of the regular classroom? What accommodations are being used?
20. Which students do you consider leaders in the classroom (whether in positive or negative ways)?
21. Which students do you think are underperforming or difficult to motivate?
22. How are parents invited to participate with the class? How do you communicate with parents?