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# TIPS FOR CLASSROOM OBSERVATIONS

If you are a GEAR UP Coach supporting in a class when the teacher is lecturing, take this time to observe the teacher, note their style, classroom management, and how they engage with students. Your observations should inform and allow you to reflect about your own engagement with the students as well as help you to model best practices. You can even learn a lot from how the teacher arranges the classroom.



Here are some suggestions for things to think about:

## **The Classroom Environment:**

- How is the classroom set up?
- How are the students arranged?
- What things are on the walls/shelves?

## **Classroom Management:**

- What does the teacher say/do to establish the tone of the classroom?
- How does the teacher manage the noise level?
- Does the teacher have any particular methods for refocusing the class?

## **Interactions:**

- What is the "flow" of classroom communication? Primarily from teacher to students? How much communication moves in the reverse direction? How much exists between students? Appropriateness" of that flow?
- What is the role of the teacher in this lesson? (i.e., source of all the information? facilitator? or what?)
- What evidence is there to indicate the degree to which students are actively involved in learning?