

Effective Learning Environments Observation Tool® (eleot®)

Environment E: Progress Monitoring & Feedback

Why It Matters: Establishing “feedback loops” within the classroom is one of the most powerful ways for teachers and students to communicate about learning taking place in the moment, thereby providing opportunities for learners to apply content correctly as defined by specified learning outcomes. The process of setting and communicating learning targets, providing aligned activities, sharing appropriate feedback, and assessing progress toward targets has a proven impact on student achievement.

What to Understand

- **Progress monitoring**, as it is used within eleot®, refers to formative activities that provide information regarding student progress toward a learning goal.
- The impact of feedback on student learning varies greatly depending on the kind and quality of feedback provided (Hattie and Timperley, 2007).
- “Teachers not only must be clear about what they want students to learn; they also must know typical student steps and missteps toward this goal” (Moss & Brookhart, 2009).

What Learners Do

- Make use of references such as rubrics and criteria lists during collaborative activities, in discussions with teachers, or as a guide while working independently.
- Ask and answer questions about lesson content as well as expectations for outcomes, including ways in which content will be assessed.
- Share peer feedback aligned to learning objectives or specific criteria from rubrics or other learning resources.
- Reflect on learning progress based on specified learning objectives or expectations.

What Observers Do

- Listen for students to make statements about their use of checklists, learning targets, and/or other tools that help keep them on track.
- Pay attention to students’ questions or comments when given instructions to complete any type of an assessment.
- Listen for discussions about the content that demonstrate students’ understanding.
- Listen for student feedback on their individual or group learning targets or learning objectives.
- See if students appear clear or confused about the feedback received, expectations to improve their work, and/or purpose of the lesson.