

NEW SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST MENTORING PROGRAM

Guiding Questions: Engaging Students and Teachers

Below are the characteristics of activities that engage students or teachers in an assessment/consultation/intervention. You will use these questions to review planned work samples and assignments for the potential to engage students/teachers in an assessment/consultation/intervention. You will select an engaging work sample for your mentor to observe. For the purpose of this section, you may select work samples that are consistent with a current practice or one you created.

A. Emphasize Thinking and Problem-Based Learning

Identify how the work sample provides for multiple correct solutions or at least for multiple ways to get the correct solution.

How does the work sample encourage the student or teacher to determine an approach, interpret their findings, and possibly formulate additional questions?

What types of higher level thinking skills are required to complete the work sample?

B. Permit Student or Teacher Choice and Initiative

In what ways does the work sample permit the students or teachers to determine how they will demonstrate their skills and knowledge or solve a problem?

When does the work sample encourage the students or teachers to formulate their own questions, design their own investigations or engage in problem solving?

C. Encourage Depth Rather than Breadth

How does the work sample challenge students and teachers to explain their thinking and justify a position or reflect on a problem?

When does the activity encourage the student or teacher to examine a topic from a variety of perspectives, to consider various alternatives and/or search for underlying causes?

In what ways does the work sample represent relevant and/or authentic applications of knowledge?

What is the context of the problem in terms of the prior knowledge of the student or teacher and other problems that they may have been solving?