



# Teaching and Learning Group

## *For Teachers, by Teachers*

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Video  
Observation

Teacher  
Talk

Zone of  
Challenge

Control or  
Creativity

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## October 2016: Removing the judgement from observations

### Judgement Free Observations

Usually many teachers feel like their lessons aren't good enough and they need to 'pull something out of the bag' during an observation. Most teachers hope you get them on a 'good day'. You can feel that everything went wrong. Please read on and find out how to remove the judgement from observation. (Click on the buttons above to access the articles).



### Thank you once again for your continued support

**Attendees:** Johnathan Bracewell, Trish Bretherton, Rebecca Burton, Steve Burton, Becky Bury, Bev Bury, Andy Coward, Amanda Gill, Matt Haworth, Helen Holt, Cathy Hughes-Gooding, Louise Huyton, Andy Lowe, Anna McGuire, Chloe Needham, Lucy Newton, Caroline Pope, Norma Pruden, Laura Swindells, Angela Townley, Angela Wilkinson, Natalie Wilkinson, Andy White, Janet Woodhouse, Mike Wright

**Apologies:** Sharon Curl, Chris Greenough, Nicola Jones, Angelina Priest, Joanna Rutter



## Thank you to our catering team and scribe



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### Life Through a Lens

Janet discussed the benefits of getting observed through the use of video rather than having a live empirical observation in the classroom. An ICT technician left a camera running in the corner of the room and Janet taught an outstanding lesson. Her observer was given the video footage and watched the lesson in his own time, in a comfortable environment. The benefits to the observer were that he could pause, rewind, watch specific parts of the lesson and then watch the video footage again if needed.



The benefits to Janet were that she could teach without getting nervous about the presence of an observer and she could also watch the footage herself which provided her with the benefits of self-observation. The observer and Janet could also watch the footage together and had a constructive discussion about teaching and learning.

Janet said that she prefers the use of observation through video as it allows her to teach 'naturally' without the distraction of another adult in the room.

Let's hope that OfSTED catch on and give teachers a fairer chance of teaching a natural and relaxed lesson.

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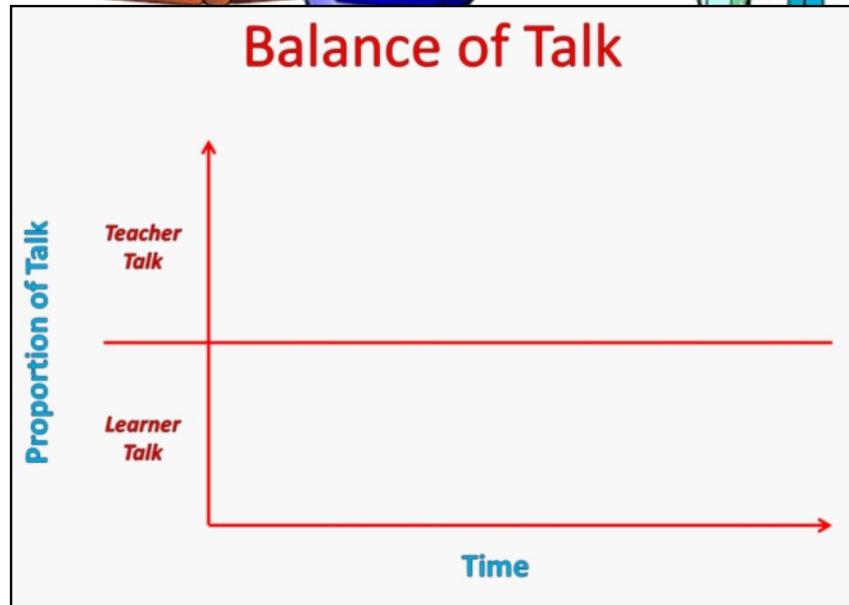
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### Sharon helps to Curl teacher talk

Sharon used the balance of teacher talk observation tool to challenge Johnny and Anna during a lesson observation. The tool can be used by an observer or for self-reflection. All you have to do is mark the proportion of teacher/learner talk at specific time intervals during a lesson. The great advantage of this tool is that it can always generate different results as all lessons will always have a certain level of individuality. This is a great tool for generating a positive discussion about teaching and learning.





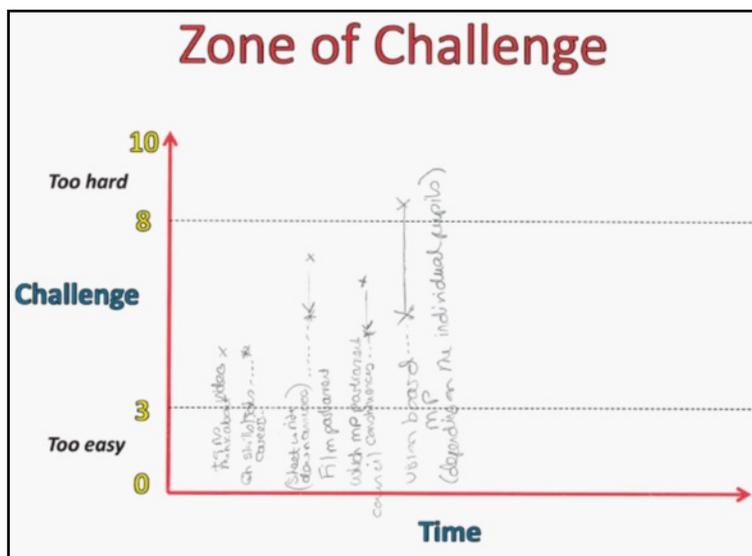
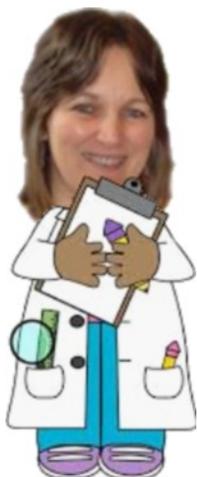
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### Angela steers Steve into the zone of challenge

Angela used the zone of challenge observation tool to analyse Steve's politics lesson. The tool can be used by an observer or for self-reflection. The chart has a challenge scale of 1-10, 1 being too easy and 10 being too hard. To be in the zone of challenge, we are aiming to have 'episodes' in the lesson, at set time intervals, between 3 and 8. The grid was a great way of reflecting on practical learning activities. A simple change that Steve made was to give pupils questions about a video clip before the film was played rather than quizzing them at the end of the video. This helped to increase the challenge for pupils during the time they spent watching the video.





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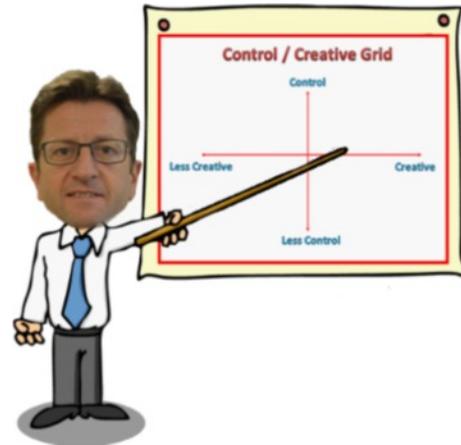
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### Mike and the Observation Mechanics

Mike used his experience as a teacher, head teacher and inspector to help us reflect on lesson observations. He started by discussing the types of observations which are high stakes and pressured situations.

- Trainee teachers observations
- Job interviews
- NQT induction
- Performance management/appraisal
- OfSTED/S48 external inspections



Mike also said that the Hawthorne effect has an impact on people's behaviour. Whenever an observation takes place and people know they are being watched, the behaviour of staff and pupils changes. This is happens in every situation, in every work place.

Mike created a reflection grid which could be used as an observation tool. It can help to take the judgement out of an observation and replace it with a constructive discussion about teaching and learning. The tool can be used by an observer or for self-reflection. The grid focuses on on the balance between control and creativity. Theoretically, we should be aiming for a controlled and creative lesson. However, making roman forts out of cereal boxes can be a very creative and kinaesthetic activity but it would be extremely difficult to control. Just by discussing if it is practical to attempt this idea, you can generate a great discussion about teaching and learning.



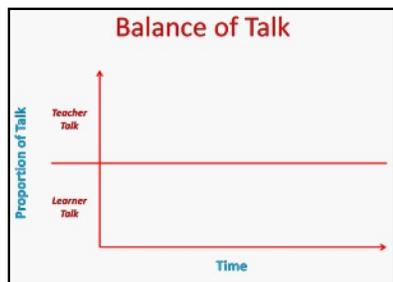
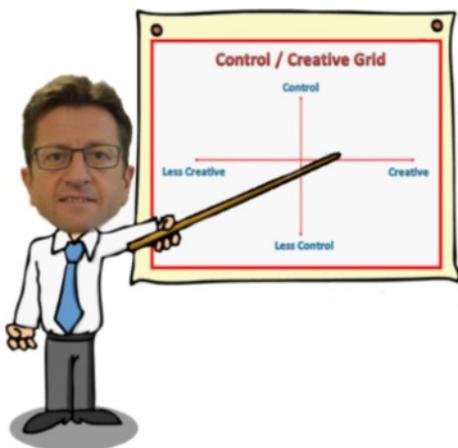


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