

SUBDIMENSION	THE VISION	GUIDING QUESTIONS
PURPOSE		
Standards	• The lesson is based on grade-level standards, is meaningful and relevant beyond the task at hand (e.g., relates to a broader purpose or context such as problem-solving, citizenship, etc.), and helps students learn and apply transferable knowledge and skills. • The lesson is intentionally linked to other lessons (previous and future) in support of students meeting standard(s).	• How do the standard and learning target relate to content knowledge, habits of thinking in the discipline, transferable skills, and students’ assessed needs as learners (re: language, culture, academic background)? • How do the standard and learning target relate to the ongoing work of this classroom? To the intellectual lives of students beyond this classroom? To broader ideals such as problem-solving, citizenship, etc.? • What is the learning target(s) of the lesson? How is it meaningful and relevant beyond the specific task/activity? • Is the task/activity aligned with the learning target? How does what students are actually engaged in doing help them to achieve the desired outcome(s)? • How are the standard(s) and learning target communicated and made accessible to all students? • How do students communicate their understanding about what they are learning and why they are learning it? • How does the learning target clearly communicate what students will know and be able to do as a result of the lesson? What will be acceptable evidence of student learning? • How do teaching point(s) support the learning needs of individual students in meeting the learning target(s)?
Learning Target and Teaching Points	• The learning target is clearly articulated, linked to standards, embedded in instruction, and understood by students. • The learning target is measurable. The criteria for success are clear to students and the performance tasks provide evidence that students are able to understand and apply learning in context. • The teaching points are based on knowledge of students’ learning needs (academic background, life experiences, culture and language) in relation to the learning target(s).	
STUDENT ENGAGEMENT		
Intellectual Work	• Students’ classroom work embodies substantive intellectual engagement (reading, thinking, writing, problem-solving and meaning-making). • Students take ownership of their learning to develop, test and refine their thinking.	• What is the frequency of teacher talk, teacher-initiated questions, student-initiated questions, student-to-student interaction, student presentation of work, etc.? • What does student talk reveal about the nature of students’ thinking? • Where is the locus of control over learning in the classroom? • What evidence do you observe of student engagement in intellectual, academic work? What is the nature of that work? In what ways is work designed to promote sustained interest (e.g. creates value for students, generates student questions, promotes student ownership of material, etc.)? • What is the level and quality of the intellectual work in which students are engaged (e.g. factual recall, procedure, inference, analysis, meta-cognition)? • How are student identities and experiences surfaced and valued in the classroom to provide multiple ways of understanding and experiencing academic content? • What specific strategies and structures are in place to facilitate participation and meaning-making by all students (e.g. small group work, partner talk, writing, etc.)? • Do all students have access to participation in the work of the group? Why/why not? How is participation distributed? • What questions, statements, and actions does the teacher use to encourage students to share their thinking with one another, to build on one another’s ideas, and to assess their understanding of one another’s ideas?
Engagement Strategies	• Engagement strategies capitalize on and build upon students’ academic background, life experiences, culture and language to support rigorous and culturally relevant learning. • Engagement strategies encourage equitable and purposeful student participation and ensure that all students have access to, and are expected to participate in, learning.	
Talk	• Student talk reflects discipline-specific habits of thinking and ways of communicating. • Student talk embodies substantive and intellectual thinking.	