

Answers to Chapter 5: Comprehension Questions

1. *What are ways to obtain focused feedback?*

One of the simplest ways to collect data about the development of one's expertise is to keep a reflection log. Teachers simply record observations and impressions about the use of a strategy on a regular basis over a period of time. Teachers might also use video data to determine if they are becoming increasingly expert with a strategy or behavior. Video data are useful because they can be watched multiple times, and the teacher can examine different behaviors or strategies each time. Teachers can administer surveys to their classes to collect feedback from their students and then reflect on the results. Finally, teachers can use student achievement data to obtain feedback about the effect of a specific strategy on student learning.

2. *What guidelines should a teacher follow when watching video of his or her teaching?*

Research has shown that self-viewing is most useful if the teacher focuses on a specific aspect of his or her performance. The teacher might watch for use of a specific strategy or behavior, examine student reactions to a strategy, or focus on the functioning of the classroom as a whole (for example, classroom organization or student engagement).

3. *How might you go about collecting student achievement data for a specific strategy in your own classroom?*

Answers will vary, because each classroom is unique. However, the process should begin by identifying two groups of students—a control group and an experimental group. Both groups should be taught the same content in the same way, except that the selected strategy should be used with the experimental group and not with the control group. A pretest and a posttest should be administered to both groups, and the teacher should compare the gain scores for the control group with the gain scores for the experimental group. If the average gain score for the experimental group is higher than the average gain score for the control group, the strategy has had a positive effect on student achievement.

4. *How might a teacher organize and track multiple sources of feedback?*

Teachers can track feedback events on a graph that shows their growth over time. They should record each feedback event (reflection log, video data, survey responses, or student achievement data) in a journal with a description of why they assigned a certain score to that feedback event.