

Principals' Implementation Classroom Checklist

Below you'll find key indicators of what an Empowered Classroom looks like in action. The indicators refer to materials, methodology, and outcomes that should be evident. Use this to maximize your classroom walk-throughs and for the purpose of ongoing conversation with teachers about their writing instruction and instructional goals.

Teacher Name _____ Grade _____ Date _____

What an Empowered Classroom Looks Like:

- ☐ The classroom posters are displayed where children can easily refer to them.
- ☐ The teacher **models** writing (interactive) – asking productive detail-generating questions, canvassing for student responses, translating them into fluent, powerful sentences. (using chart paper, whiteboard, etc.)
- ☐ After modeling you see **guided practice** – students apply skills the teacher models to her/his own writing. The teacher circulates to offer support.
- ☐ A variety of “sentence starters” are on display for student reference.
- ☐ Student writing displayed in the classroom.

Comments/Notes: _____

Conversation Opportunities:

- Describe what you find fulfilling and challenging about the Empowering Writers methodology – be specific. (literature/modeling/guided practice of skills in isolation)
- Ask which basic assured experience/skills have been taught to date. Teachers should be able to clearly articulate this. Check to see that they are on target with the lessons and what has been noted as successes and challenges.
- Have a look at some student portfolios – a student who has easily grasped the skills and a student who is struggling. Portfolios should be readily accessible, neatly organized with designated portfolio pieces inside.
- What assessments have you done, what were your scores, and how did you use this information prescriptively?
- How does the methodology of modeling/guided practice of skills in isolation compare to the traditional writers' workshop? (An Empowered teacher will be able to easily articulate the differences.)

Comments/Notes: _____

