

TOOL

# Teacher to Student Interaction Tracking Tool

---



This product is the intellectual property of Elena Aguilar and Bright Morning.  
Unauthorized use, reproduction, or distribution is prohibited.

# Teacher to Student Interaction Tracking Tool

## Purpose

This tool helps you collect and analyze data on teacher-to-student interactions to identify patterns in tone, attention, and equity. It provides a structured way to examine how interactions are distributed across students and how they may impact student experience.

## When to Use

Use this tool during classroom observations to better understand patterns in teacher-student interactions, especially when exploring questions about engagement, relationships, or equity.

## How to Use It

This tool is designed for use in three phases: data collection, analysis, and coaching reflection.

First, use the tracking sheets to collect data during multiple short observations (3–5 times, for 15–20 minutes each).

Then analyze the data by tallying interactions and identifying patterns across students, including tone and distribution.

Finally, use the reflection questions to guide a coaching conversation that supports insight, reflection, and next steps.

This tool is most effective when used within a strong, trusting coaching relationship and framed as a way to understand classroom dynamics, not to evaluate the teacher.

## What This Tool Includes

- Data Collection: Tracking sheets to record interactions, including tone (positive, negative, neutral), time, and perceived student demographics.
- Guidance for Use: Considerations for collecting accurate data, including how to introduce the observation and maintain trust.
- Analysis: Prompts to help identify patterns in interactions across students and over time.
- Coaching Reflection: Questions to guide a debrief conversation with the teacher and identify next steps.

© Elena Aguilar, *The Art of Coaching: Effective Strategies for School Transformation*. Jossey-Bass, 2013

# Teacher to Student Interaction Tracking Tool

## Data Collection

Interactions are classified as “positive” or “negative” based on the specific words that are said, the tone that is used, and any non-verbal communication that accompanies the interaction. While designation is subjective, you’re looking for a general picture. It can also be very helpful to have multiple coaches or observers use this tool to provide various perspectives.

This tool assigned the observer the task of determining a student’s gender and racial identity—meaning the observer is perceiving the student’s identity, which may or may not be how the student sees their own identity. If the observer knows how students perceive themselves, then that’s also data to gather.

## How to Do

If you tell the teacher you’re going to focus specifically on the quality of interactions, the data will be skewed. However, you also need to make sure you aren’t violating their trust. You need to make sure your relationship is strong enough and that they trust you enough to allow you to gather data on their relationships with students.

You might say something like this: “Thank you for being open to having me observe your classroom. I have a variety of tools that I use to understand the different dynamics in your room, and it’ll take me 3–5 observations to use them all. Afterward, I’d like to share what I’ve learned with you and show you the tools and data. Would that be okay?”

Use this tool 3–5 times, for 15–20 minutes each time.

## How to Analyze

Tally up the numbers

Consider the Coaching Debrief questions (following page):

Are there any patterns? For example, are all of the negative interactions with African American girls? Is 80% of the positive interactions with girls? What was the flow of the interactions—were the negatives interspersed? Were they clumped together? Were the negatives due to teacher-words, tone or non-verbal communication?

# Teacher to Student Interaction Tracking Tool

## Coaching Debrief

Ask your coachee:

1. What do you notice in this data?
2. What surprised you?
3. What feels good to see? What's affirming?
4. Is there anything that raises questions for you?
5. What do you want to know more about? Is there anything you want me to collect more data on?
6. Is there anything you might want to work on, based on this data?

Follow up:

If there is one student with whom there are lots of negative interactions, you could use a modification of this tool to track that student through the day or a few periods.

© Elena Aguilar, *The Art of Coaching: Effective Strategies for School Transformation*. Jossey-Bass, 2013

# Teacher to Student Interaction Tracking Tool

<b>Teacher</b>	<b>Subject/Period</b>	<b>Date and Time</b>	<b>Total Number of Students</b>
<b>Number of female students:</b>	<b>Number of male students:</b>		<b>Number of gender nonconforming students:</b>
<b>Racial breakdown:</b>	<b>Racial breakdown:</b>		<b>Racial breakdown:</b>

Interaction	Time	Positive*	Negative*	Neutral	Gender	Ethnicity	Notes
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							
11							
12							
13							

© Elena Aguilar, *The Art of Coaching: Effective Strategies for School Transformation*. Jossey-Bass, 2013

# Teacher to Student Interaction Tracking Tool

Interaction	Time	Positive*	Negative*	Neutral	Gender	Ethnicity	Notes
14							
15							
16							
17							
18							
19							
20							
21							
22							
23							
24							
25							
26							
27							
28							
29							
30							
TOTAL							

WHAT'S NEXT

# Keep Learning with Bright Morning



Join [The Art of Transformational Coaching Workshop](#).

Unlock the conversations—and the change—your organization needs most.

- Turn even a 15-minute conversation into a catalyst for change.
- Build confidence through clear frameworks, live practice, and targeted feedback that turns uncertainty into expertise.
- Gain practical strategies to ensure every child gets what they need, every day.



And for an entire year of on-demand support, join our [Coaching Lab](#).

Transformational Coaching at your fingertips.

- Access proven coaching strategies exactly when you need them, 24/7.
- Develop your unique coaching style with personalized feedback and guidance.
- Eliminate isolation by joining a professional community of coaches facing similar challenges and finding success.

Curious what this could look like for your team?  
Schedule your [complimentary consultation](#).

