

# Engagement Qualities

How do we know if our students are engaged in the lesson?

Based on Phillip Schlechty's "Working on the Work"



# Why is Engagement Important?

- Brainstorm with an elbow partner
- Think of 2-3 household chores that frustrate you or that you dislike doing
- Take a look at the whole group's list
- What would make these chores more enjoyable or acceptable to do?

# Try Engaging Qualities

- Personal response
- Clearly modeled expectations
- Emotional and intellectual safety
- Learning with others
- Sense of audience
- Choice
- Novelty or variety
- Authenticity

# How about student frustrations with school work?

- Do your students enjoy every learning task or assignment they experience?
- Are there topics or subject areas they don't look forward to?
- Let's look at how engaging qualities might affect them

## Engaging Qualities

*Does the work assigned to students incorporate engaging qualities?*

Check all that apply:

- Personal Response- personalized assignments
- Clear/Modeled Expectations- students compare work to models
- Emotional/Intellectual Safety- students are comfortable explaining thinking
- Learning with Others- partners, small groups, interdependence
- Sense of Audience- students demonstrate their learning to others
- Choice- students select how they acquire and demonstrate learning
- Novelty/Variety- modes of presentation, role-play, games, simulations, fun
- Authenticity- work matters to the students, replicates the workplace, inquiry, realistic

## Engagement

*What is the engagement level of the classroom?*

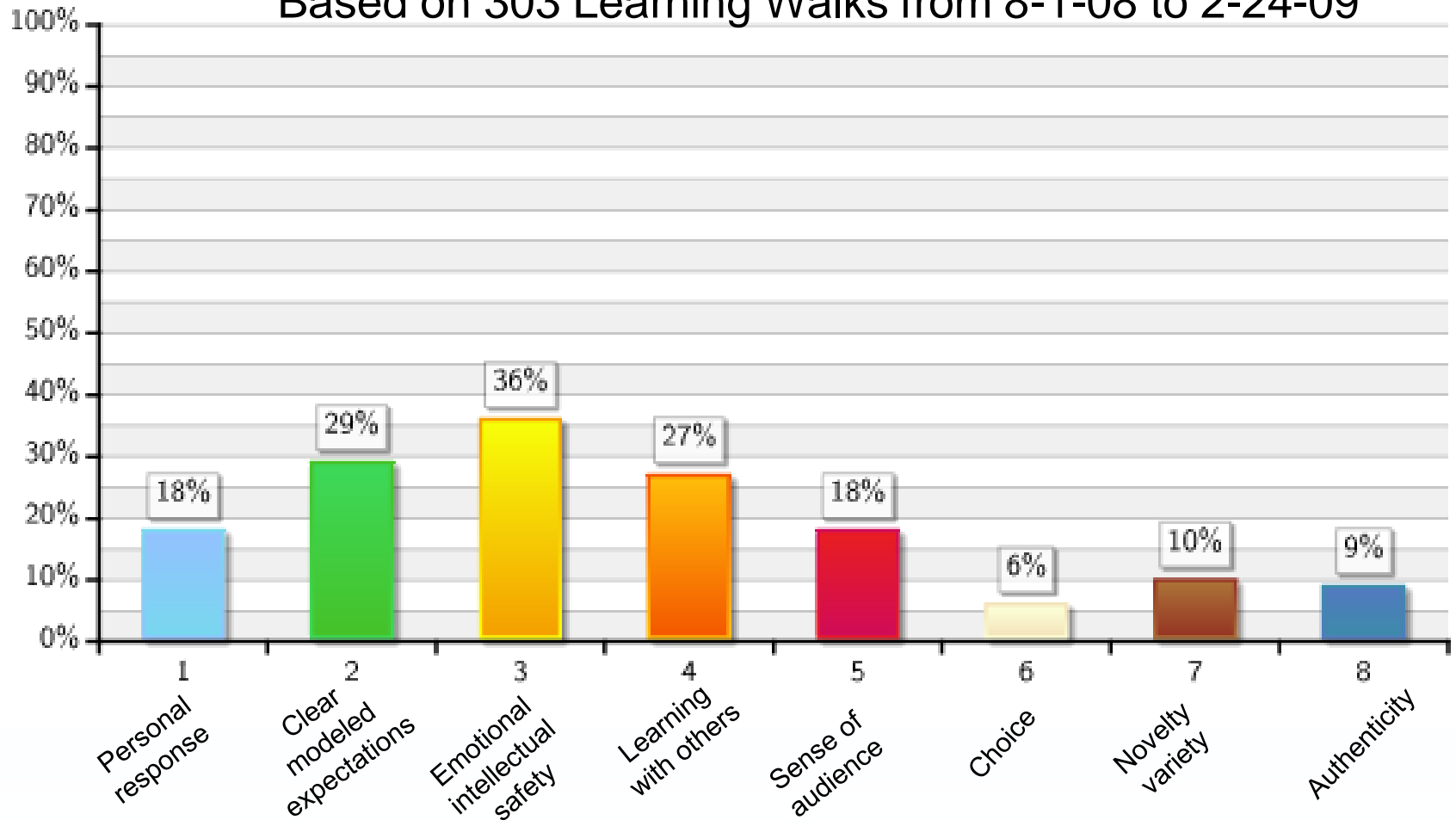
Check one:

- Engaged
- Compliant
- Off-Task

**From “Classroom Learning Walk” Form**

# Lassiter's Level of Engagement So Far This Year

Based on 303 Learning Walks from 8-1-08 to 2-24-09



# Are your students usually...

- Off Task
- Compliant
- Engaged
- What do these conditions look like?

Are we having fun yet?





Famous Bad Kids!!



Is there off task behavior in classrooms?





Students are compliant and listening....

but are they engaged?

What does engagement look like?



This is what engagement looks like...



# Students Will Be Engaged with...

## 3 or more of these 8 qualities within a lesson:

- Personal response
- Clearly modeled expectations
- Emotional and intellectual safety
- Learning with others
- Sense of audience
- Choice
- Novelty or variety
- Authenticity

# PERSONAL RESPONSE

## Work Generated by Student

- Products, performances, or exhibitions that capture their thoughts
- Work assignments personalized for individual students
- Evidence that students care about their work and place value on it
- *Examples: Journals, essays, quality and overall appearance of student work.*

# CLEAR MODELED EXPECTATIONS

Students knowing what success “looks like”

- Understanding the expectations by which their work will be assessed
- Having expectations relevant to them
- Seeing and comparing their work to models and exemplars
- Having involvement in the creation of rubrics to assess their work
- *Examples: Samples to view if product based, student friendly rubrics*

# Emotional and Intellectual Safety:

## *Freedom to take risks*

- Comfortable explaining their thinking
- Having ideas critiqued rather than individuals
- Feeling secure to take risks
- Having multiple opportunities for re-learning using different approaches
- *Examples: Students are safe to share their thoughts w/o fear of being criticized; differentiation present for needs of students*

# LEARNING WITH OTHERS

## *Learning has a social component*

- Opportunity to work with partners and in small groups
- Group work designed to produce cooperative interdependence
- Opportunity to work with parents and other adults from the community to complete tasks and assignments
- Opportunity to work in electronic cooperative networks
- *Example: Elbow partner, Think-pair- share, team work*



# SENSE OF AUDIENCE

## *Student work is shared*

- Opportunities to demonstrate for others what they are learning in class
- Parents and guardians involved in the standard-setting and critiquing of student work
- Clearly communicated and understood by students that effort expended and work completed are important to the larger group
- *Example: Oral presentation, role-play, skit, RAP*

# CHOICE

## *Students have meaningful options*

- Opportunities to select how they acquire information and how they demonstrate their learning
- Opportunities to select expectations and processes by which their work will be evaluated
- Variety of resources available to students (people, time, materials, technology)
- Students know how to use available technology
- *Example: Choice based on interest, learning profile, or readiness*

# NOVELTY or VARIETY

## *Unusual learning experiences*

- Students experience a variety of formats and modes of presentation
- Students encouraged to look at content from a variety of perspectives
- Students learn through games, simulations, or role-play
- Qualities of fun incorporated into the work
- Setting for learning varied
- *Example: Inside, outside, visit other classrooms, groups, games, reality shows*

# AUTHENTICITY

## *Connections to real world learning*

- Tasks have immediate meaning and significance to students
- Opportunities replicate workplace activities
- Learn through inquiry or discovery
- Feel that their assigned tasks are reasonable and realistic to accomplish
- Feel ownership for the quality of their work
- *Example: Real world connections, school newspaper, The Swamp News, 5<sup>th</sup> grade social*

# Engagement means...

- Students take ownership of their own learning
- Students extend their personal commitment to learning to more complex levels
- Students experience their own joy and passion when learning
- Student achievement increases

Take a look at engagement in this  
video...



# With your elbow partner:

Identify which engaging qualities you saw in Ms. Tong's class

- Personal response
- Clearly modeled expectations
- Emotional and intellectual safety
- Learning with others
- Sense of audience
- Choice
- Novelty or variety
- Authenticity



# Your Turn...

**Summarizing on your graphic organizer:**

Think of an upcoming lesson that you will teach and pick 2-3 engaging qualities that you can add to that lesson.



"Remember when you said learning can be fun? When exactly does the fun start?"

By increasing the level of  
engagement of your students .....

you will increase both the joy and  
the fun of learning for all of  
Lassiter's students.