Techniques: Observing Student Learning

Identify clear learning goals
- Standards-based goals from lesson plan
- Communicate goals to students in general terms

Determine class benchmark
- Listen during KWL and opening conversations
- Ask students to make guesses, predictions, and estimates
- Use pre-activities with observable results
- Identify misconceptions that need to be addressed at end

Integrate observation opportunities into lesson
- Use variety of chances to demonstrate learning and questions
- Select learning experiences that teach and reveal outcomes
- Use selection criteria to design open and authentic experiences

Objectively measure progress towards goals
- Listen to concluding discussions, modeling, plays, projects, writing
- Develop rubrics and other objective observation tools
- Compare results to class benchmark when reflecting on lesson plan

Help students recognize learning
- Use prompts to help students draw ideas out of lesson experiences
- Ask students to, compare to previous ideas and note differences