

Activity 2: What are you judging?

When looking at teacher competency, it is important to look at the teacher's professional behaviour, not them as a person. Look at the list below and make a note in your Learning Diary about whether you think each item of evidence is about behaviour or the person:

1. Observing a classroom for 20 minutes, noting down the number of different students that the teacher talks to.
2. Comments from the students about the way that the teacher dresses.
3. A report from a teacher that the teacher in the next door class always arrives ten minutes late for their lesson.
4. Observing a classroom for 20 minutes, noting down how many open questions the teacher asks.
5. Comments from the students about how they sometimes have different work from each other.
6. Comments from parents that the teacher is from a different region.

Discussion

Some of these are not as clear as they first appear.

- Options 1, 4 and 5 are clearly about the way the teacher behaves.
- Option 2 is inappropriate and is clearly against the person, unless the dress is unmistakably unsuitable. Comments like this should be discouraged.
- Option 3 is similar, but you would need to be aware of potential bias and gather further evidence before acting.
- Option 6 could be blatant intolerance, but it could be that the teacher's accent is so strong that the students find it difficult to understand. Again, there would need to be further investigation.