

# Staying Focused When Answers and Solutions Are Not Immediately Apparent



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## GENERAL DIRECTIONS

This document contains general directions for helping students understand and develop proficiency for the skill of *Staying Focused When Answers and Solutions Are Not Immediately Apparent* at the Grades 3-5 level. The set of instructional resources for this skill includes:

- Three instructional videos entitled lesson 1, 2, and 3 respectively. Each introductory video is accompanied by one or more shorter practice videos and directions for how to assess students in the content on the video and how to provide supplemental activities for students.
- Directions about how to set up situations to determine if students can demonstrate proficiency on this skill and how to assess students in those situations.
- Directions about how to set up situations to determine if students can demonstrate competence beyond proficiency and how to assess students in those situations.

There are a number of ways teachers might use these resources (pgs. 3-5). One way is to simply show the introductory video for each lesson. The first video introduces vocabulary important to this metacognitive skill. The second video describes basic facts about this skill. The third video provides examples and non-examples about this skill. After students view each lesson, the teacher can simply have a discussion with students about what they have learned.

A second way to use these resources is to have students also watch the practice videos after each introductory lesson video. In the practice video students are questioned about what they have learned and provided with answers and explanations regarding correct and incorrect answers.

A third way to use these resources is to have students assess themselves regarding their understanding of the content in each lesson. The teacher, then, uses students' self-assessments along with the teacher's own perceptions of students' levels of understanding to score students on each lesson and keep track of their progress.

Finally, within each of the three options, the teacher can also provide situations in which students are asked to demonstrate they are proficient in the use of the metacognitive skill as well as provide situations in which students can demonstrate that they can perform at a level that goes beyond proficiency.

## OPTION 1

### Lesson 1 Vocabulary

- Show the introductory video for Lesson 1.
- Have a discussion with students about what they learned.

### Lesson 2 Basic Facts

- Show the introductory video for Lesson 2.
- Have a discussion with students about what they learned.

### Lesson 3 Examples and Non-examples

- Show the introductory video for Lesson 3.
- Have a discussion with students about what they learned.

### Demonstrating Proficiency (If desired)

- Provide situations for students to demonstrate proficiency in the metacognitive skill.
- Use the Individual Student Response and Rating Sheet and the Class Tracking Sheet Reproducibles for Demonstrating Proficiency if desired.

### Going Beyond Proficiency (if desired)

- Provide situations for students to demonstrate capacity beyond the expected level of proficiency in the metacognitive skill.
- Use the Individual Student Response and Rating Sheet and the Class Tracking Sheet Reproducibles for Going Beyond Proficiency if desired.

## OPTION 2

### Lesson 1 Vocabulary

- Show the introductory video for Lesson 1.
- Show the practice videos for Lesson 1.
- Have a discussion with students about what they learned.

### Lesson 2 Basic Facts

- Show the introductory video for Lesson 2.
- Show the practice video for Lesson 2.
- Have a discussion with students about what they learned.

### Lesson 3 Examples and Non-examples

- Show the introductory video for Lesson 3.
- Show the practice video for Lesson 3.
- Have a discussion with students about what they learned.

### Demonstrating Proficiency (If desired)

- Provide situations for students to demonstrate proficiency in the metacognitive skill.
- Use the Individual Student Response and Rating Sheet and the Class Tracking Sheet Reproducibles for Demonstrating Proficiency if desired.

### Going Beyond Proficiency (if desired)

- Provide situations for students to demonstrate capacity beyond the expected level of proficiency in the metacognitive skill.
- Use the Individual Student Response and Rating Sheet and the Class Tracking Sheet Reproducibles for Going Beyond Proficiency if desired.

### OPTION 3

#### Lesson 1 Vocabulary

- Show the introductory video for Lesson 1 and the practice videos if needed.
- Use the Individual Student Rating Sheet reproducible for Lesson 1 to have students assess themselves on the content in the video.
- Use Class Tracking Sheet reproducible for Lesson 1 to track student progress.

#### Lesson 2 Basic Facts

- Show the introductory video for Lesson 2 and the practice video if needed.
- Use the Individual Student Rating Sheet reproducible for Lesson 2 to have students assess themselves on the content in the video.
- Use Class Tracking Sheet reproducible for Lesson 2 to track student progress.

#### Lesson 3 Examples and Non-examples

- Show the introductory video for Lesson 3 and the practice video if needed.
- Use the Individual Student Rating Sheet reproducible for Lesson 3 to have students assess themselves on the content in the video.
- Use Class Tracking Sheet reproducible for Lesson 3 to track student progress.

#### Demonstrating Proficiency (If desired)

- Provide situations for students to demonstrate proficiency in the metacognitive skill.
- Use the Individual Student Response and Rating Sheet and the Class Tracking Sheet Reproducibles for Demonstrating Proficiency if desired.

#### Going Beyond Proficiency (if desired)

- Provide situations for students to demonstrate capacity beyond the expected level of proficiency in the metacognitive skill.
- Use the Individual Student Response and Rating Sheet and the Class Tracking Sheet Reproducibles for Going Beyond Proficiency if desired.

## STAYING FOCUSED WHEN ANSWERS AND SOLUTIONS ARE NOT IMMEDIATELY APPARENT

### Video Lesson #1

After students have watched the video for lesson #1, and watched the practice videos, assess their level of understanding or skill.

#### ASSESSING STUDENTS

The purpose of this lesson is to provide students with vocabulary terms that will help them understand the skill of Staying Focused When Answers and Solutions are not Immediately Apparent. When students have completed watching the video, they should go through the practice videos which break up the content in the lesson into shorter videos each of which presents students with a review of a specific vocabulary term along with a set of questions that help them reinforce the meaning of the vocabulary term. When students have gone through the practice videos, the teacher should attempt to determine students' general levels of understanding relative to the vocabulary terms. Possible definitions for each term are listed below:

| Vocabulary |  |                 |                                                                                                 |
|------------|--|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.         |  | Alternative     | A choice between two or more options.                                                           |
| 2.         |  | Ambiguity       | Something that does not have a single clear meaning or can be interpreted in more than one way. |
| 3.         |  | Obstacle        | Anything that makes it difficult for you to do something.                                       |
| 4.         |  | Perseverance    | Is the quality of continuing with something even though it is difficult.                        |
| 5.         |  | Problem-solving | The act or process of finding solutions to problems                                             |
| 6.         |  | Re-engage       | To take part in something again.                                                                |

The students' understanding of these terms should be generally accurate but not necessarily detailed or complete. To assess student understanding of each term, the teacher can ask students to fill out the *Individual Student Rating Sheet* for lesson #1 (see below) to record their answers. Note that this requires students to explain the term and then provide a self-rating of how well they understand the term using the values high, medium, and low. If students are not old enough to write their answers, they can draw a picture that represents the term to them and then explain their pictures verbally. Students' self-rating along with the information provided in their explanations should provide ample evidence so a teacher can determine students' level of understanding regarding the vocabulary terms.

If students don't seem to know a term, use one or more of the supplemental activities with them. Afterwards, ask students to explain the term again. The progress of the entire class can be tracked using the *Class Tracking Sheet* reproducible for this lesson (see reproducibles).

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### PROVIDING SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES

- Provide students with descriptions and definitions of the terms they are having trouble with.
- Provide students with pictures that represent terms they are having trouble with.
- Have students identify other terms that might relate to the skill of Staying Focused When Answers and Solutions Are Not Immediately Apparent.
- For those terms a student is unsure of, have them draw a picture that represents the meaning of the term.

## STAYING FOCUSED WHEN ANSWERS AND SOLUTIONS ARE NOT IMMEDIATELY APPARENT

### REPRODUCIBLES FOR LESSON #1:

#### INDIVIDUAL STUDENT RATING SHEET

Students should rate themselves for each of the vocabulary terms using the following scale or an adaptation of it:

High (H): I know this word well.

Medium (M): I know something about this word.

Low (L): I don't understand this word.

| Individual Student Rating Sheet |             |                 |                        |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------------|
|                                 | Self-Rating |                 | Explanation or picture |
| 1.                              |             | Alternative     |                        |
| 2.                              |             | Ambiguity       |                        |
| 3.                              |             | Obstacle        |                        |
| 4.                              |             | Perseverance    |                        |
| 5.                              |             | Problem-solving |                        |
| 6.                              |             | Re-engage       |                        |

## CLASS TRACKING SHEET

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From the information provided in the student self-rating sheets and your interactions with students, rate each student on their overall status on vocabulary using the following scale or an adaptation of it:

High (H):        The student recalls the general meaning of the terms with no major errors or omissions.

Medium (M):    The student recalls the general meaning of the terms with some major errors or omissions.

Low (L):        The student is very confused regarding the general meaning of the terms.

| Class Tracking Sheet |                              |                             |
|----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Student Name         | Overall Status on Vocabulary | Comments Regarding Students |
|                      |                              |                             |
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## Video Lesson #2

After students have watched the video for lesson #2 and watched the practice video, assess their level of understanding or skill.

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### ASSESSING STUDENTS

The purpose of this lesson is to provide students with some basic facts about Staying Focused When Answers and Solutions are not Immediately Apparent. After students have watched the video, they should go through the practice video which breaks up the content into smaller chunks of information. When students have completed the practice video the teacher should attempt to determine their general understanding of the basic facts. This can be done by asking students to explain what they remember about the basic facts regarding Staying Focused When Answers and Solutions are not Immediately Apparent using the reproducible for this lesson. Students should rate themselves regarding their level of understanding.

If students require more instruction to improve their understanding, provide supplemental activities.

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### PROVIDING SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES

- Ask students to describe what they think is the most important reason to cultivate the skill of staying focused when answers and solutions are not immediately apparent and explain why. Help them by providing your own answers to this probe.
- Ask students to describe some negative things that can happen if they don't cultivate the skill of staying focused when answers and solutions are not immediately apparent and explain why. Help them by providing your own answers to this probe.

## STAYING FOCUSED WHEN ANSWERS AND SOLUTIONS ARE NOT IMMEDIATELY APPARENT

### REPRODUCIBLES FOR LESSON #2:

#### INDIVIDUAL STUDENT RESPONSE AND RATING SHEET

Have students describe the basic information they learned about staying focused when answers and solutions are not immediately apparent using the individual student response sheet. Students should also rate their understanding of the basic information about staying focused when answers and solutions are not immediately apparent using the following scale:

High (H): I know the basic information about staying focused when answers and solutions are not immediately apparent well.

Medium (M): I know something about staying focused when answers and solutions are not immediately apparent but am confused about some things.

Low (L): I don't understand much about staying focused when answers and solutions are not immediately apparent.

| Individual Student Response and Rating Sheet |                        |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Self-Rating                                  | Explanation or picture |
|                                              |                        |

## CLASS TRACKING SHEET

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Rate each student on their overall understanding of basic information about staying focused when answers and solutions are not immediately apparent using the following scale or an adaptation of it:

High (H): The student understands the basic information about staying focused when answers and solutions are not immediately apparent.

Medium (M): The student understands information about staying focused when answers and solutions are not immediately apparent with some major errors or omissions.

Low (L): The student is very confused regarding basic information about staying focused when answers and solutions are not immediately apparent.

| Class Tracking Sheet |                                                            |                             |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Student Name         | Overall Status Regarding Basic Information About the Skill | Comments Regarding Students |
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## Video Lesson #3

After students have watched the video for lesson #3 and watched the practice video, assess their level of understanding or skill.

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### ASSESSING STUDENTS

In this lesson students are presented with three short vignettes, one of which is a non-example and two of which are examples of the skill of Staying Focused When Answers and Solutions are not Immediately Apparent. Students view a vignette and are then asked to determine if it is an example or a nonexample. After a few seconds they are provided with the correct answer.

After students have viewed the video, they should go through the practice video which breaks up the content into smaller chunks of information. When students have completed the practice video, the teacher should attempt to determine their general understanding of the examples and non-examples regarding Staying Focused When Answers and Solutions are not Immediately Apparent. This can be done by asking students to recall and describe the three vignettes and explain what made them examples and non-examples. If students have difficulty remembering any of the vignettes provide them with a brief synopsis. Have students rate themselves on their ability to identify examples and nonexamples. Using students' comments and their self-ratings, rate each student on their ability to identify examples and nonexamples.

If students require more instruction to improve their understanding, provide supplemental activities.

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### PROVIDING SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES

- Have students explain how nonexamples can be turned into an example.
- Have students provide and explain more examples.
- Have students provide and explain more nonexamples.

## STAYING FOCUSED WHEN ANSWERS AND SOLUTIONS ARE NOT IMMEDIATELY APPARENT

### REPRODUCIBLES FOR LESSON #3:

#### INDIVIDUAL STUDENT RATING SHEET

Ask students to use the following scale to rate themselves on their ability to identify examples and nonexamples:

High (H): I can identify things that are examples of staying focused when answers and solutions are not immediately apparent and things that are not.

Medium (M): I can sometimes identify things that are examples of staying focused when answers and solutions are not immediately apparent and things that are not.

Low (L): I have trouble identifying things that are examples of staying focused when answers and solutions are not immediately apparent and things that are not.

| Individual Student Rating Sheet |                                                     |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Self-Rating                     | Explanation or picture for examples and nonexamples |
|                                 |                                                     |

## CLASS TRACKING SHEET

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Rate students on their ability to identify examples and nonexamples of the skill of staying focused when answers and solutions are not immediately apparent.

High (H): The student can identify examples and nonexamples of staying focused when answers and solutions are not immediately apparent.

Medium (M): The student inconsistently identifies examples and nonexamples of staying focused when answers and solutions are not immediately apparent.

Low (L): The student is very confused about examples and nonexamples of staying focused when answers and solutions are not immediately apparent.

| Class Tracking Sheet |                                                       |                             |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Student Name         | Effectiveness at Identifying Examples and Nonexamples | Comments Regarding Students |
|                      |                                                       |                             |
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## STAYING FOCUSED WHEN ANSWERS AND SOLUTIONS ARE NOT IMMEDIATELY APPARENT

### Demonstrating Proficiency

After students have completed the three lessons, they should be ready to demonstrate proficiency. This involves accurately executing the basic process for staying focused when answers and solutions are not immediately apparent. The basic process is: [1] remind yourself of what you are trying to accomplish, [2] try to state what it is you can't find or solve, [3] give it at least one more try. The teacher should set up a complex task that allows students to demonstrate this level of competency. For example, the teacher provides students with a task that requires them to stay focused when answers and solutions are not immediately apparent. Such tasks should have no obvious solution when initially addressed (e.g., brain teaser tasks). Students can be asked to record their responses on the *Individual Student Response and Rating Sheet for Demonstrating Proficiency*. When asked, students should be able to accurately determine if they are trying to use this skill.

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### PROVIDING SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES

- Provide students with other examples of staying focused when answers and solutions are not immediately apparent.
- Provide students with other nonexamples of staying focused when answers and solutions are not immediately apparent.
- Ask students to describe times when they were staying focused when answers and solutions are not immediately apparent.
- Ask students to describe a time they should have been staying focused when answers and solutions are not immediately apparent but were not.

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## REPRODUCIBLES FOR DEMONSTRATING PROFICIENCY:

### INDIVIDUAL STUDENT RESPONSE AND RATING SHEET

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To provide information to this end, other than teacher observation, students can be asked to rate themselves using the following scale:

High (H): I can tell when I'm staying focused when answers and solutions are not immediately apparent and when I am not.

Medium (M): Sometimes I can tell whether I'm staying focused when answers and solutions are not immediately apparent or not.

Low (L): I usually can't tell whether I'm staying focused when answers and solutions are not immediately apparent or not.

| Individual Student Response and Rating Sheet for Demonstrating Proficiency |             |                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------|
|                                                                            | Self-Rating | Explanation or picture |
| Teacher probe #1                                                           |             |                        |
| Teacher probe #2                                                           |             |                        |
| Teacher probe #3                                                           |             |                        |
| Teacher probe #4                                                           |             |                        |
| Teacher probe #5                                                           |             |                        |

## CLASS TRACKING SHEET

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Use the students' self-ratings and their observed behavior to rate each student using the following scale:

High (H): The student is able to determine when he or she is staying focused when answers and solutions are not immediately apparent or not.

Medium (M): The student sometimes is able to determine when he or she is staying focused when answers and solutions are not immediately apparent or not.

Low (L): The student is very confused regarding when he or she is staying focused when answers and solutions are not immediately apparent or not.

| Class Tracking Sheet |                                      |                             |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Student Name         | Overall Status Regarding Proficiency | Comments Regarding Students |
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## STAYING FOCUSED WHEN ANSWERS AND SOLUTIONS ARE NOT IMMEDIATELY APPARENT

### Going Beyond Proficiency

Students' can demonstrate capacity beyond the expected level of proficiency by critiquing how well they did using the skill of staying focused when answers and solutions are not immediately apparent. They should be able to identify some things they did well and some things they need to improve on.

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#### PROVIDING SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES

- Provide students with some of your own insights into the types of thinking that occur when you are staying focused when answers and solutions are not immediately apparent. Then have students elaborate on your comments.
- Provide students with some of your own insights into the types of behavior that occur when you are staying focused when answers and solutions are not immediately apparent. Then have students elaborate on your comments.

## INDIVIDUAL STUDENT RESPONSE AND RATING SHEET

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Have students describe their thinking and their behaviors when they use the skill of staying focused when answers and solutions are not immediately apparent. Also have students rate their understanding of the type of thinking associated with staying focused when answers and solutions are not immediately apparent and the actions that go with it using the following scale:

High (H): I know the type of thinking that goes with staying focused when answers and solutions are not immediately apparent.

Medium (M): I know something about the thinking and actions that go with staying focused when answers and solutions are not immediately apparent but am confused about some things.

Low (L): I can stay focused when answers and solutions are not immediately apparent but don't understand how I think when I'm doing it.

| Individual Student Response and Rating Sheet |                        |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Self-Rating                                  | Explanation or picture |
|                                              |                        |

## CLASS TRACKING SHEET

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Using the following scale, rate each student on their understanding and awareness of the types of thinking and the types of actions that accompany staying focused when answers and solutions are not immediately apparent:

High (H): The student understands the thinking and actions associated with staying focused when answers and solutions are not immediately apparent.

Medium (M): The student understands the thinking and actions associated with staying focused when answers and solutions are not immediately apparent with some major errors or omissions.

Low (L): The student is very confused about staying focused when answers and solutions are not immediately apparent.

| Class Tracking Sheet |                                                            |                             |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Student Name         | Overall Status Regarding Advanced Performance on the Skill | Comments Regarding Students |
|                      |                                                            |                             |
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