

# Memorandum

**To:** Framework for Teaching Proficiency System Observers

**From:** Teachscape and ETS

**Date:** September 18, 2012

**Re:** Guidance on Use of FfTPS Videos in Collaborative Settings

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## **Background**

Teachscape received a request for guidance on how to use the videos in FfTPS for individual learning and in group settings. The intention behind the request was for FFPTS observers to be able to review video footage, individually or collaboratively, in order to improve their observation skills and understanding of the Framework for Teaching Rubric.

## **Recommendation**

Teachscape and ETS propose the following guidelines:

1. **Orientation:** All of the Orientation materials (Orientation to Observer Training ,the Overview of the Framework for Teaching, and the Orientation for Teachers) are well suited for both individual and collaborative use. These videos do not illustrate classroom practice, but they provide insight into the structure and value of the Framework for Teaching.
2. **Observer Training :** With the exception of bias training modules, we encourage FfTPS observers to watch all videos in Observer Training and review all rationales either independently or collaboratively. One approach to studying the components is to work through the first component collaboratively, then proceed through the other modules as individuals or with partners or in small groups. The Observer Training was designed to be flexible and meet the needs of the learners.
3. **Understanding Bias:** We highly recommend that the Understanding Bias module, including the videos in the module, be completed individually. You might consider discussing the module after all of your colleagues have completed it.

4. Practice: the Practice section contains a set of five grade-specific videos. Observers should use Scoring Practice videos to hone their own scoring accuracy and gauge their readiness to score accurately on the Proficiency Assessment. The value of scoring practice as an individual formative assessment may be reduced if the scoring practice videos are discussed in a group setting before the Observer has completed the Proficiency Test. Therefore we do not recommend that these videos be used for collaborative professional development until after the Observer has successfully completed the Proficiency test\*. Following the successful completion of the Proficiency test, however, Observers should feel free to use all the videos in the Practice section in collaborative settings for Professional Development.

\*Observers who would benefit from discussing videos collaboratively prior to completing the test should feel free to work through a sample of the Scoring Practice videos with their peers. However, we strongly recommend that observers work through the majority of Scoring Practice videos independently to ensure that they are scoring accurately, prior to taking the Proficiency Assessment.