

Saskatchewan Principals' Short Course

Administrator Walk-Throughs to Support Student Learning

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What is a Walk-Through?

Classroom Walk-Throughs are five to ten-minute observations, used as a tool to “drive” a cycle of continuous improvement.



Share your experiences with Walk-Throughs



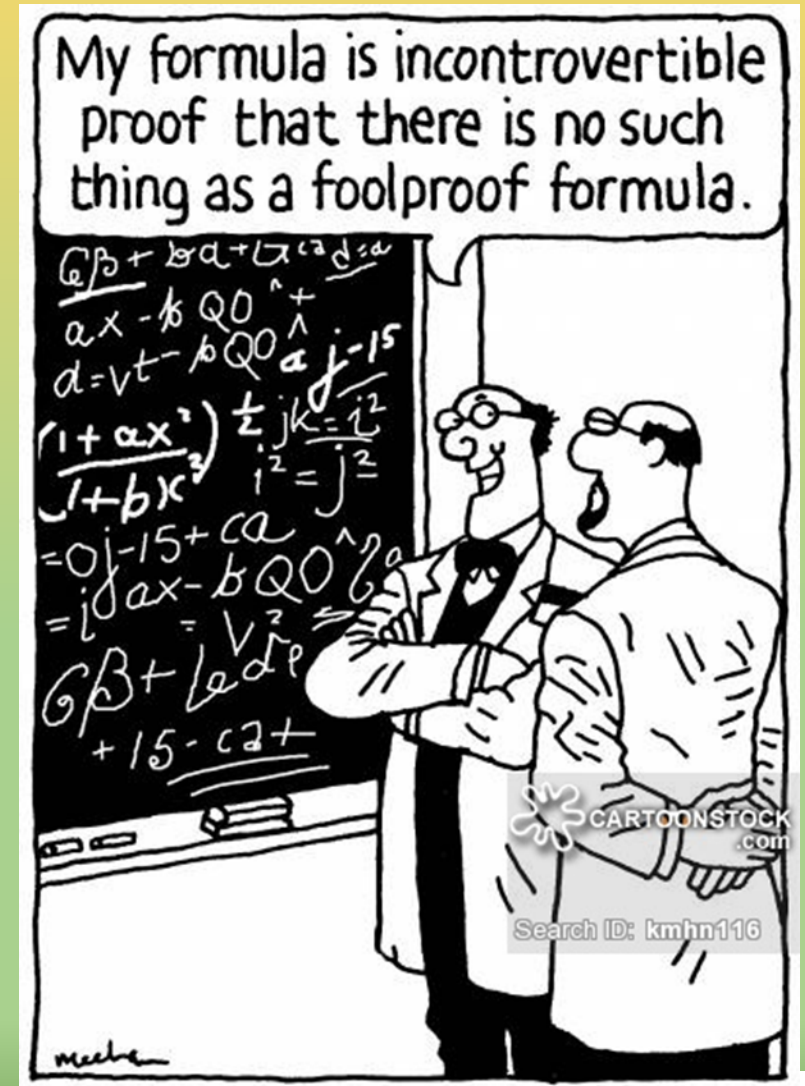
Traditional Walk-Throughs are often guided by checklists of strategies that principals look for as they observe teachers and instruction.

Moss and Brookhart suggest that Traditional Walk-Throughs perpetuate three educational myths:

First, they foster the belief that principals know exactly what to look for and critically assess teaching quality.



Second, they suggest the existence of a foolproof recipe of best practices that raise student achievement regardless of the content, the context, or the students in question. Armed with a prescriptive set of one-size-fits-all criteria the principal focuses on what the teacher is doing.



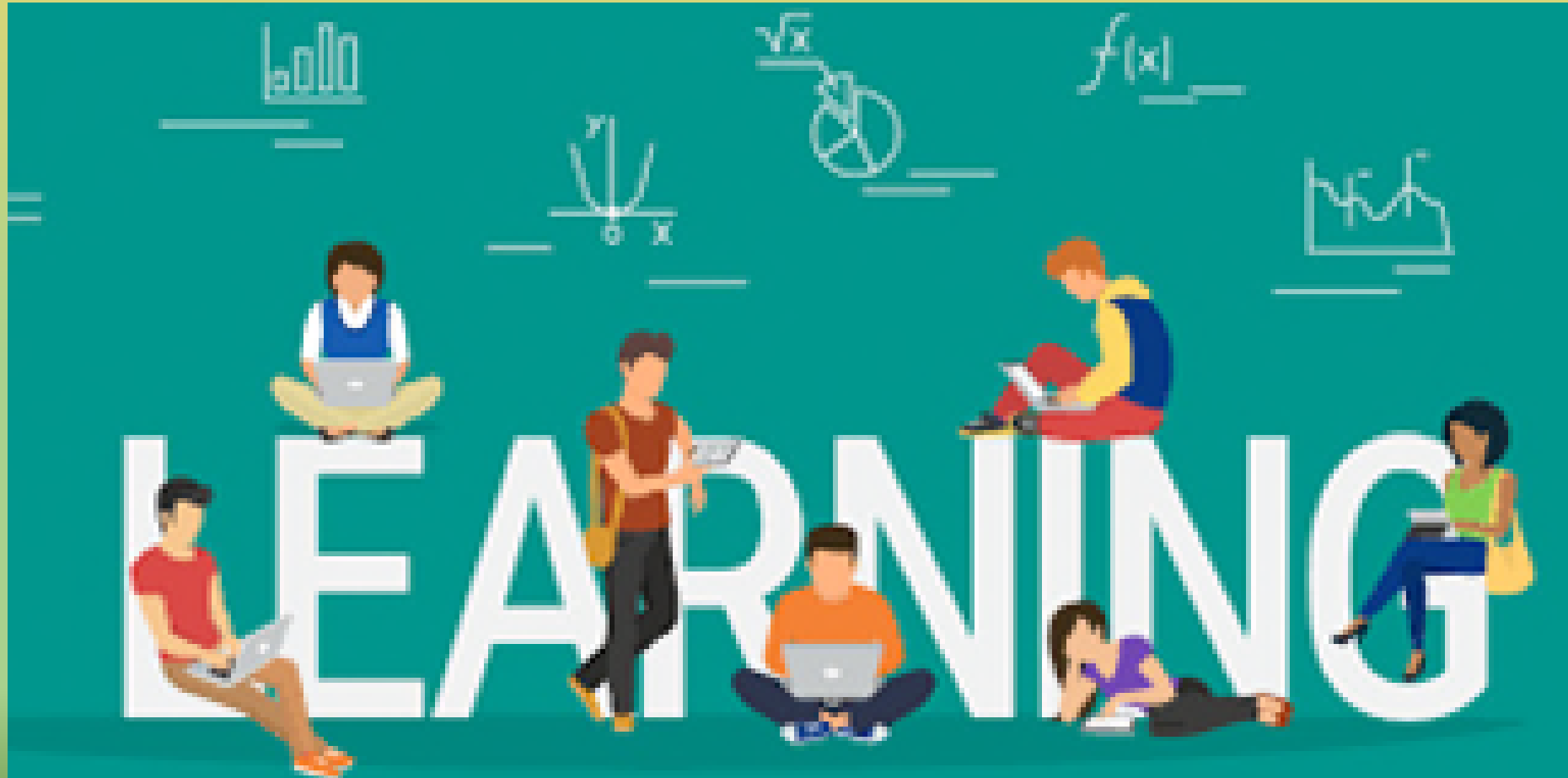
Third, traditional Walk-Throughs perpetuate the notion that information about student learning flows from the top down.



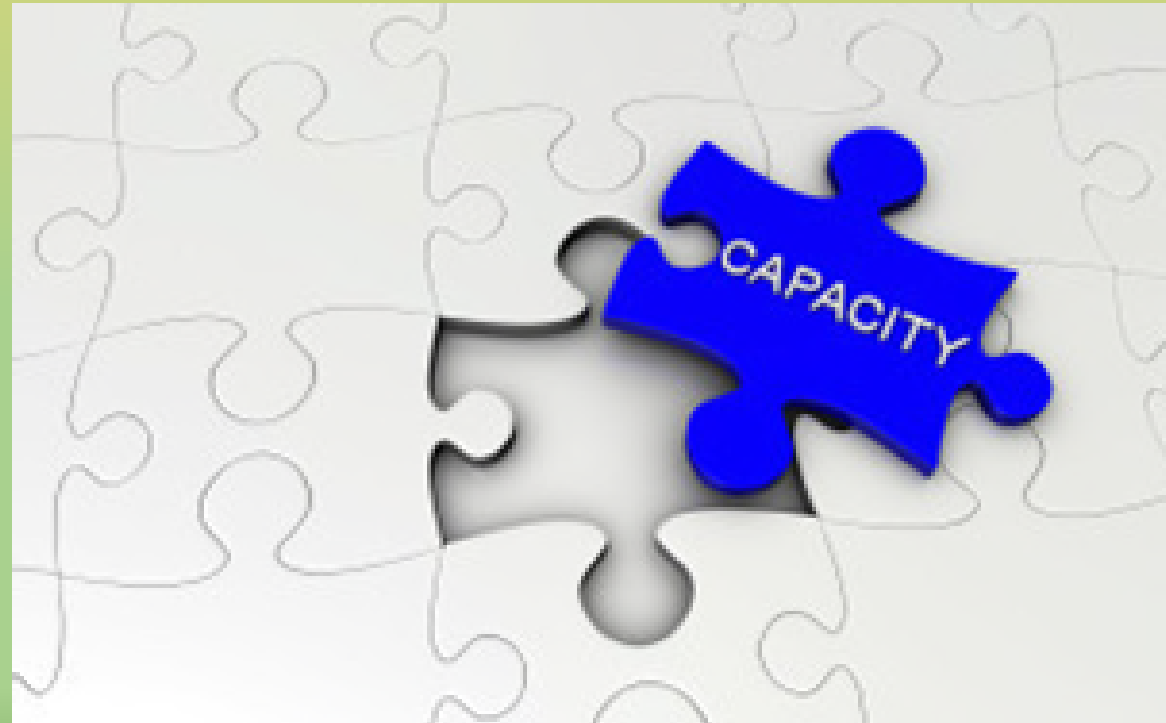
what
is my
purpose?



STUDENT LEARNING



How can an administrator use Walk-Throughs to improve student learning?



LOOK FORS WHEN DOING A WALK-THROUGH

Start with the Learning Target



LOOK FORS WHEN DOING A WALK-THROUGH

LEARNING TARGET



Just because a Learning Target is posted does it mean learning is happening?



LOOK FORS WHEN DOING A WALK-THROUGH

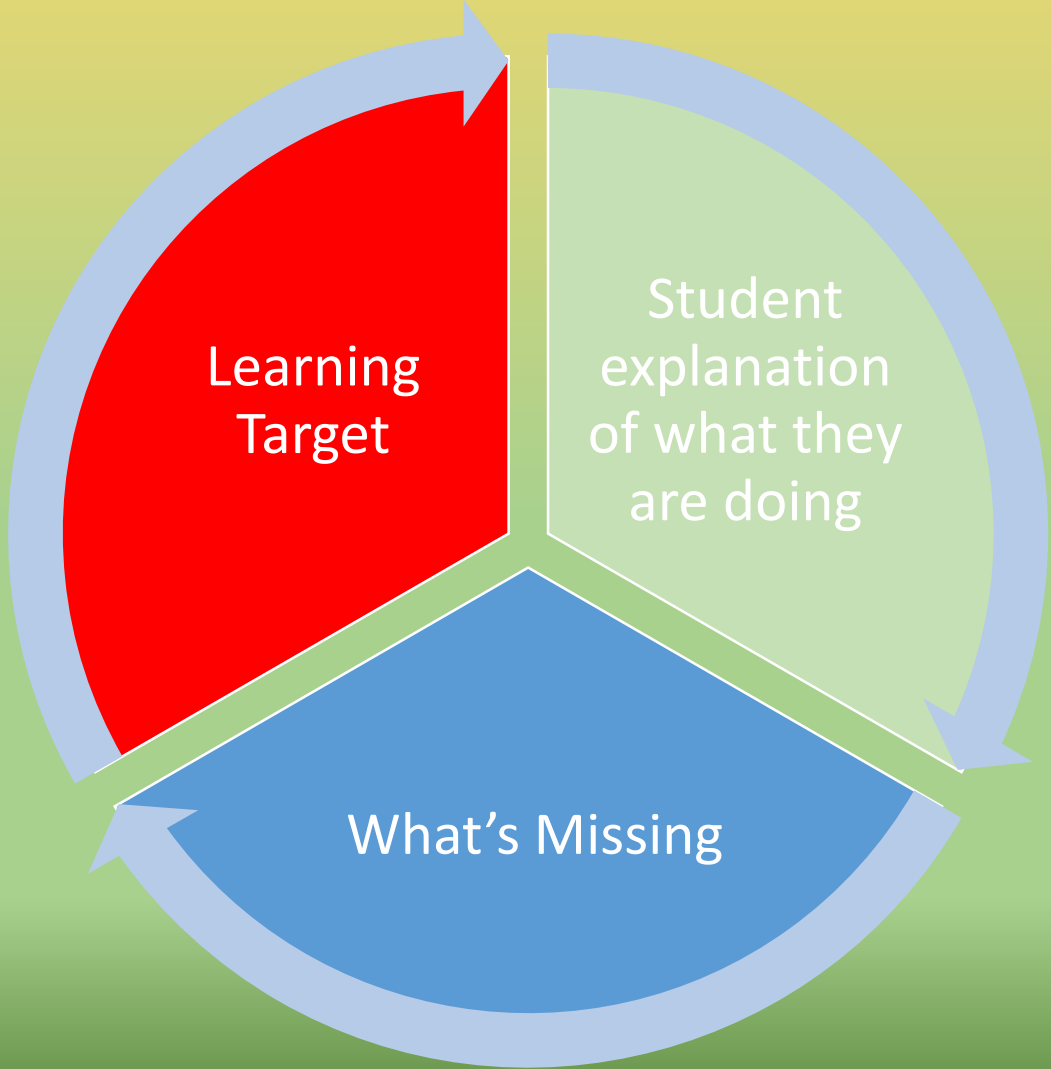
Can Students Tell You What the Lesson is About?



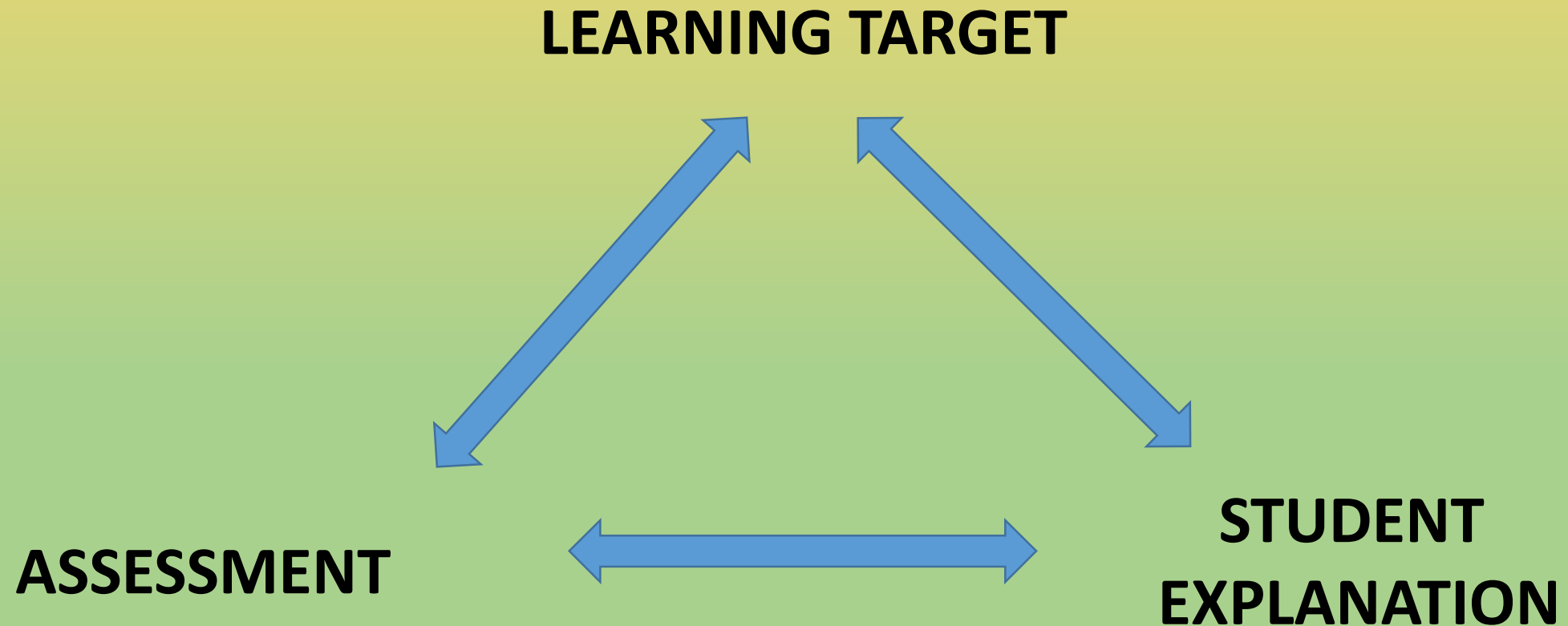
Just because a student can tell you what they are doing does that mean learning is happening?



What's Missing?



LOOK FORS WHEN DOING A WALK-THROUGH



Follow-Up Conversations Focused on Assessment

MEETING CURRICULUM
OUTCOMES

PERCENTAGES

Are we asking our teachers what evidence (criteria) they expect from their students to demonstrate that they understand the outcome?



Why is it important for teachers to have a clear understanding of the outcome criteria before they start developing and teaching a lesson?



Key Points to Walk-Throughs



- **Keep them Formative not Evaluative**
- **Eliminate Checklists**
- **Eliminate Surprises**
- **Involve Reflective Discussion around Assessment**

