

### **Videographer Tips**

The video of the observation lesson is an important tool for the Lesson Study team. They may review it to provide additional data during the debrief or to corroborate data presented. Additionally, it gives teachers who wish to try the lesson created and shared on the Texas Gateway a way to see the lesson in action, as it was intended. To collect optimal video, the following are recommended.

- 1) Two to three cameras allow for improved video collection as one may be stationary focus on the whole room, while the other(s) may be mobile and taken group to group to collect video of students' work. If only one camera must be used, then a stationary camera that captures the entire room is best.
- 2) An audio device that captures separate audio is useful for situations where students stand at a projector or computer and talk about how they worked a problem. Or, the device may be placed near a group that is being videotaped to collect additional audio. Another option is to place an audio device near the teacher to record the instruction provided. If possible, a microphone that sends audio to one of the cameras (preferably the stationary camera) may be placed on the teacher to gather audio about the teacher's instruction and interaction with students.
- 3) It is helpful if the videographer knows the lesson sequence, including where the sections of the lesson will occur in order to best set up cameras and audio devices in advance.
- 4) When focusing on a student or set of students, be sure to spend extended time capturing what they are doing from start to finish, or major chunks of students' work. This will help show their complete thought process on video. Since the observers are collecting data with a focus on students, the video will be most helpful if it also has this focus.
- 5) Video of students should show groups of students (if grouped) or partnered students (if partnered) and their work, plus some zooming in on individuals and individual papers to show on camera the work and thought process of the student(s).
- 6) While the teacher provides instruction, it is helpful if the mobile cameras zoom in to show both the teacher and whatever screen s/he is using. Occasionally, it may make sense to zoom in to the screen only, depending upon what the teacher is trying to show, so that the teachers who will watch the video can clearly see what the teacher is writing or showing.
- 7) During the lesson, students and the teacher may refer to charts or other items posted in the classroom. The videographer should be sure to show these up close so that those watching the video later can read what is on the chart or item.
- 8) In Lesson Study, the videographer will collect video that has the observers and others besides the students and the teacher in it. This is perfectly acceptable and an expected part of a Lesson Study lesson video. The observers will be asked to avoid standing in front of the camera and blocking its view, but will be observing students closely and will be in the background of some video.