

Documentation is the process of capturing student learning through multiple media and reflecting it back to students as they move through the inquiry process. It is the engine behind how inquiry moves forward.

Great documentation

- shares and celebrates the learning process
- includes both student and teacher learning
- captures students' unique/individual contributions to the inquiry arc
- reaches multiple audiences (students, parents, teachers and staff, visitors to the school) and different components are directed at various audiences
- includes multiple formats (the walls of the classroom, digital communications, in-person conversations, physical projects or models)
- emphasizes and values student voice in the learning process

Daily Documentation Essentials

Take photos/videos of students at work



Record what students say and do



Save 1-3 pieces of student work



Reflect with students on documentation



Lower lift strategies

- Implement a "wonder wall" in your classroom for students to write their questions on post-its
- Use a t chart for recording students ideas and questions
- Include time in the arc for students to reflect on their process in writing/drawing

Higher lift strategies

- Invite a parent/volunteer to come in and interview students about their learning process. The volunteer can type up students responses and you can then edit for the most interesting elements to post on the documentation board
- Video/audio record during classroom discussions to capture how students build on each others' ideas
- Ask students to assume a more formal "documentor" role by writing down what peers say or taking photos/videos of their work
- Take time to post documentation in the classroom weekly or bi-weekly, rather than waiting until the end of the arc or unit
- Save and file documentation materials by topic/theme/activity so that you can put it together to hang in the classroom