

## Tools for focusing: Narrowing the focus

Use this tool to narrow the focus of your inquiry and make it very specific.

### Observe

**WHAT:** Describe the general area of improvement (eg. mathematical problem-solving)

**WHAT:** Describe what's working well

**WHAT:** Describe what's not working well

**WHO:** Identify the students who are affected/involved.

**WHAT:** Identify which areas of your teaching practice are involved (eg. feedback, classroom management, questioning techniques)

### Aspire

**HOW:** What do you want students to know, understand and do? (eg. students will develop the confidence and knowledge of a range of strategies to persevere with, and enjoy, mathematical word problems)

**HOW:** What will this look like? How will you know you have made a difference? (eg. students will self-select more challenging problems, persist in solving them, and talk about and share strategies with excitement)

**WHAT:** What strengths can you build on? (Yours and/or students')

### **Speculate**

**WHY:** Why is it a problem? What might be some of the barriers to learning? What could cause this problem? (Try to avoid jumping to conclusions at this stage. Use the 5 Whys Analysis to identify the root cause)

**WHAT:** Identify possible challenges you may face

**WHO:** Is there another teacher who has a similar problem you could work with?