

Description of a Reciprocal Style*



What classroom image would you see between the teacher and learners that would indicate the structure of the Reciprocal Style?

In the Reciprocal Style you would see students working in a partner relationship with each partner engaged in different roles (different decisions and expectations). One partner (the doer) practices the task, while the other partner (the observer) uses a teacher-prepared criteria (checklist) to offer immediate and on-going feedback about the performance to the doer. When the first set of tasks is finished, the students switch roles and continue to the second set of tasks. The teacher interacts with the observer to affirm the use of the criteria and the accuracy of the feedback comments and/or to redirect the observer's focus to specific performance details on the criteria.

This experience offers practice in giving and receiving immediate feedback about a task and practice in developing comparing, contrasting, communication, and social skills such as patience, tolerance, and accepting of individual differences.

* Teaching Styles A-E engage the learners in practicing tasks that rely on reproduction cognitive operations. The content in these styles may be new to the learner, a review, a practice or a test of previously experienced content.