



ASSESSMENT TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES

Assessment of student work was ongoing and included evaluations by the teacher and by the students themselves, based on teacher-made criteria and collaboratively generated criteria. Through observations, rubrics, and checklists, students were assessed on the following:

- Oral reports, poems, creation of posters, development of questions, written reports, autobiography
- Reading log indicating the literary elements and techniques used by authors
- Group collaboration
- Analysis of peers' written suggestions for improvement in clarity and logic of writing
- Use of language

INSTRUCTIONAL/ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATIONS

- ✓ Pair/group less proficient students with more proficient students
- ✓ Frequently change the position of student desks to facilitate intra-group communication, pair work, and individual activities
- ✓ To help all students concentrate on different tasks, to facilitate understanding for those who are more visual, and to inform those who were absent, big colorful charts were created and displayed in the classroom

STUDENT WORK/PRODUCTS

- Poem about self
- Questionnaire about the Human Organization Theory (HOT) chart
- Report on teacher's life
- A personalized Human Organization Theory chart
- Posters illustrating the components of human life (HOT)
- A report about student's own life
- Answers to comprehension questions about the play *The Miracle Worker*
- A T-chart describing characters in the play
- Autobiography (past, goals, plans)

student work samples

- ★ ★ ★ ★
- When the Day comes**
- Looking up at the sky, and ★
Watching all the stars, I feel that one day
One of them will be I
- Even though I don't know
When that day will be.
I gotta live life and
Try to be the best I can be,
So when the day comes
Ready I'll be
To shine and shine
- Just like this

Autobiography Using Human Organization Theory

Teacher's comments

This student wrote two versions of her autobiography. In both she has established and maintained a clear focus. She has developed each HOT component with original, logical, and vivid supporting facts, anecdotes, and examples. The second draft was better organized in an essay format, but the first draft was more emotionally powerful. The student has accepted my suggestion to write a third version blending the emotional grip of the first with the organization features of the second..

she has skillfully used the writing process, drafting, revising and editing in order to improve the essay content, organization and conventions. she still has some work to do on mechanics.

Autobiography using Human Organization Theory

I was born in Haiti on November 1, 1983, in a place called Port au-Prince. I passed most of my days in what they called "dormitory" because my mother died when I was three, so I didn't have any other place to go with my two little brothers who are dead now. I don't remember when the first one died, but I know that the second died in 1996; I remember because I was old enough to understand and cry. I don't remember my mother's face, but I know that she was pretty because every time my father talks to me about her, he always starts by saying how beautiful she was. I do not know what it means to live with a family, because I have never got the chance. I always consider my friends to be my family. It was very hard to live in a dormitory. Sometimes I got bit up by the older ones. I cried almost every night, because I wanted to see my mother and father. My father was in the U.S. where he had a good job that could provide for him and me. As little as I was I knew that it was not his fault if he left me in Haiti. I knew that my father wanted the best for me.

Through the 14 components of the Human Organization Theory, I had the possibility to know deeply who I am and which part of my life needs some work. To be sincere, sometimes I do things that can badly affect my health. But I feel well and strong. I went to my doctors many times and they always told me that if children who grow up without their mother or father, they develop bad habits, which was my case. Now I'm trying to do what's good for my health. Not long ago, something very bad happened to me, where one of my friends invited me to dinner and I accepted with the big smile on my face. At the dinner the food was so delicious that I savor every peace and after that I discover that there was pork in the rice. I was so mad that I cried and it took me days to get over it. Since that day I have never gone to another dinner because I know who I am and what is important to avoid anything that may affect me or my belief. Sometimes it's only a grass fire, it flares up but only live ashes and the heat goes away. Food means a lot to me because I believe that you are what you eat, so I make sure that I eat in a restaurant that is clean and I don't eat pork and many other things that I believe are bad for your health.

I'm not good at making friends, but I always want to get a lot of them because I like to be around people who care about each other. I really like to talk. Sometimes I do not know what I am saying, but I like to talk anyway. People who keep silent are mostly sad. I care a lot about the way I dress and the food that I eat. I like to look cute even if I feel uncomfortable with the dress I wear. I can say that I am an educated person because I am in 12th grade. I like to read books and to do research. School is very important to me, because it gives me hope. I am not homeless but I am not rich. I never had a real job, but I hope that some day I will get a good job that pays off.

I never feel really safe maybe because I never got my mother and I got my father around only lately. The only people I used to see around me were different from me; they had come from different places. I had never felt protected by my parents. But now I have my father. I know he will never let anyone hurt me.

I know myself better than anyone else. I know where I need to improve and where I am good so I don't feel inferior. I am aware of my rights so much that sometimes I become arrogant. But I know other people's rights as well. I am proud of my name, the same as my great-grandmother. I believe in myself and I'm happy to be alive. I will always remember what my friend told me one day: "You have to smile at life, my angel, because if you don't, you will shrivel up like an old goat skin in the sun." I know all my dreams will come true. I can feel it.