

## Two-minute Technique for Observing Learner

***“There is only one thing more painful than learning from experience and that is not learning from experience.”***

-- Archibald McLeish

Observation is a powerful technique to understand what a student knows and what he/she could do to improve. Finding time to observe a student may seem difficult, but just two minutes of observation can yield sufficient information to provide constructive feedback.

Richard Sarkin, MD (University at Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences) and LuAnn Wilkerson, Ed.D. (UCLA School of Medicine), suggest the following for conducting two-minute observations:

1. Explain the purpose of the observation to the student.
2. Tell student how the observation will take place.
3. Let patient know that a brief observation may take place (student or preceptor explains).
4. Conduct observation at the beginning or in the middle of a student's time with the patient for two minutes without interrupting.
5. Try to leave room without disrupting the student/patient encounter.
6. Quickly jot notes about what you observed.
7. Provide specific feedback to the student as close to the observed encounter as possible.
8. Set an agenda with the student for future learning.