

## STRENGTH ANALYSIS INFORMATION

It is essential that teachers know their students! This involves knowing the student as a “whole person” with unique interests, skills, hopes, styles, preferences, as well as numerous other factors that need to be taken into consideration when planning for the student’s learning experience. A strength analysis is an instrument or method you will create and use to gather information about your students that will assist you in getting to know each student in order to best meet that student’s needs.

There are endless ways you can gather this information. It depends on your specific classroom situation, mentor expectations, age/developmental ability of students, and your own style and needs as far as what information you believe would be most useful.

A strength analysis can be as informal as “getting to know you” activities you may see at the beginning of the school year. It is a good way for students to get to know themselves and each other as well. Results of the activity are often excellent open-house materials for parents to see. Below are just a few general suggestions you may want to consider to spark ideas for how you may want to conduct your strength analysis.

- ◆ Student interest inventory
- ◆ Parent survey
- ◆ Journal writing
- ◆ Students write autobiography
- ◆ Writing poems
- ◆ Questionnaire
- ◆ Time line activities
- ◆ Personal narratives
- ◆ Use of music
- ◆ Artistic self-expressive activities
- ◆ Multiple intelligence surveys
- ◆ Learning style surveys
- ◆ Student collage
- ◆ One-on-one interview with students
- ◆ Curriculum related assignment
- ◆ Read student files
- ◆ Look at test results—standardized tests, pre-tests....
- ◆ Talk to other teachers, parents
- ◆ Conduct observations

**Confidentiality is critical.** Do not use student names on any materials passed in.