

Categorizing Observational Checklist

Dangerous Decibels

Use the following checklist to make observational notes while students work in groups to categorize their data. The following strategies are **not** steps to be followed in order; rather, they are strategies that students can use to make categories. Students also should be encouraged to invent their own strategies.

Use the results of your observations to plan mini-lessons on specific strategies students can try.

Group _____ Date _____

| Strategies | Date and Comments | Date and Comments | Date and Comments |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Physically separate individual pieces of data by cutting them apart and arranging them in piles based on similar characteristics | | | |
| Brainstorm characteristics or attributes of the data | | | |
| Look for similarities and differences among data items | | | |
| Avoid creating a "Miscellaneous" category and placing all items in one or more categories | | | |
| Divide more general categories into more specific ones | | | |
| Discuss how different categories will help answer research questions | | | |
| Categorize data in several ways | | | |