



## Part 2

**Figure 2.2. Observation Checklist: How Do My Students Think?**

The teacher needs to know his or her students, their interests, their learning needs, and how they think.

An **observation checklist** can help you analyze how students think so you can plan questions to keep the discussion moving.

Record observations of students as they work independently, work in groups, participate in discussions, and interact with assigned tasks. When a student displays one of the characteristics listed, write his or her name in the box. Add tally marks next to the name if students display characteristics multiple times. Record observations over a week during different kinds of interactions and tasks.

**Tip:** Use different-color pens to record observations, signaling one color for each type of interaction or task (e.g., red for group work, blue for hands-on task, etc.).

### Thinking About Analysis

- Sees the big picture
- Sees the component parts
- Sequences ideas logically
- Solves problems eagerly
- *Can deconstruct and reconstruct concepts or ideas*

### Thinking About Big Ideas

- Dives in without conceptualizing
- Shows initiative and is a self-starter
- Is eager, enthusiastic, sometimes impulsive
- *Is always ready to launch the investigation*

### Thinking About Questions

- Is naturally inquisitive
- Is full of wonder
- Has an imagination without limits
- Has a strong drive to explore and know
- *Is always willing to investigate further*

<p><b>Thinking About Perspective</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Looks at things from a unique perspective</li><li>• Communicates ideas in a different way</li><li>• <i>Articulates connections between related concepts</i></li></ul>	
<p><b>Thinking About Details</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Notices organization</li><li>• Pays attention to time and sequence</li><li>• Clarifies abstract thoughts</li><li>• Uses precise language</li><li>• <i>Contributes missing pieces of information when needed</i></li></ul>	
<p><b>Thinking About Meaning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shows awareness of context clues</li><li>• Likes to clarify meaning</li><li>• Perceives relationships</li><li>• Observes and listens carefully</li><li>• <i>Synthesizes contributions of others</i></li></ul>	
<p><b>Thinking Outside the Box</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Makes conceptual leaps</li><li>• Has a unique problem solving perspective</li><li>• Visualizes concepts before all the pieces are in place</li><li>• <i>Opens the door to new possibilities</i></li></ul>	