

Case Study: Measuring Behavior

Advanced Scenario

Student: Rachel

Age: 17

Grade: 11th

Scenario

Mr. Smith co-teaches an inclusive biology course at Hamilton High School with Mrs. Patel, a special education teacher. Because the students have a wide range of reading abilities, one of the teachers frequently reads a paragraph from the text aloud and then asks listening comprehension questions. During this question-and-answer period, students are required to raise their hands and wait to be called on. Rachel, a new transfer student, frequently talks to peers and writes notes to friends during this activity. When she does respond to questions, she blurts out the answer without waiting to be called on. Though her answers are always correct, the teachers are frustrated with her behavior. Mr. Smith reprimands her several times before sending her to the office. Upon being sent to the office for the fourth time, Rachel complained, "You're always picking on me!" Mr. Smith spent the next two minutes explaining how fair he is with his students. Concerned about this pattern of behavior, Mrs. Patel has collected frequency data for Rachel.

The following is his data:

DATE	TIME	TALLY (blurting out)	TOTAL	RATE	TALLY (waiting to be called on)	TOTAL	RATE
2/13	2:15- 2:25	III			I		
2/14	2:16- 2:26	IIII			II		
2/15	2:16- 2:26	II					
2/16	2:15- 2:25	IIII			II		
2/17	2:17- 2:27	IIII			I		
		Average			Average		

Assignment

1. Do you agree with Mrs. Patel's data collection choices for each behavior?
 - a. Explain your answers.
2. Complete the forms below by calculating Rachel's rate of calling out and her occurrences of off-task behavior.
 - a. Analyze Rachel's data.
 - b. Are the teachers' concerns about Rachel's calling-out behavior justified? Why or why not?
 - c. Are the teachers' concerns about Rachel's off-task behavior justified? Why or why not?
3. For each behavior listed below, identify an alternate method of data collection and explain how Mrs. Patel would collect the data.
 - a. Calling-out behavior
 - b. Off-task behavior