

# **Best Practice Network Inquiry**

by

**Kay Nelson**

**I. Inquiry Question: Will student self-assessment increase vocal skill development in middle level students?**

**II. How does this inquiry connect to the Best Practice Standard?**

- ξ Design challenging learning experiences that engage students in the work of music.
- ξ Align learning activities with learning goals.
- ξ Design learning experiences that bridge current and new knowledge.
- ξ Create new learning activities and assignments that allow assessment of student learning.
- ξ Utilize student assessment for various purposes.
- ξ Evaluation of performance is aligned with learning goals.

**III. Evidence of Learning**

- ξ Student Pre-Assessment
- ξ Student Self-Evaluation Log
- ξ Self-Reflection

**Overview:** Students will use self-assessment and practice as tools over an extended period of time to improve vocal skill development. All work will be documented in a **Vocal Development Log.**

1. Have the students pre-assess vocal skills in the following areas:

- ξ Singing Range
- ξ Breathing Technique
- ξ Singing Posture
- ξ Vocal Production

It may be helpful to videotape the students as they are singing to aid in their pre-assessment. Peer evaluation may also be a helpful tool for this purpose

2. Assist your students in determining their vocal range. Have them document their range in the **Vocal Development Log.**
3. Have students complete a pre-assessment on their understanding of proper breathing and singing technique, Remember, this is a pre-assessment; students should not be given guidance other than to explain directions for this section.
4. Guide students in setting goals based on their pre-assessment. Document in the **Vocal Development Log.**
5. As students participate in regular choir rehearsals, have them refer to their goals, Provide instruction/review in the areas of Vocal Production, Breathing, Posture and Range. Encourage them to practice proper breathing and singing techniques as part of warm-up and regular singing experiences. Periodically, ask them to record their process and progress in the log.
6. Allow time for opportunities for students to re-assess their singing range and record in the log.
7. At the end of the project, ask students to complete the reflection questions in the **Vocal Development Log.** Guide their understanding of evidence. Encourage them to use their log as a basis for their responses, A post assessment may be necessary to assist students in completing the evaluation. A videotape may be a useful tool for this purpose.
8. Other areas in which self-assessment may be utilized as instruction:
- ι Sight Reading
  - ι Theory
  - ι Styles of Music
  - ι Blending/Quality
  - ι Expression