

Narrowing Opportunity Gaps Rubric

Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this module, you will be able to:

- Define the term *opportunity gap*
- Identify examples of *opportunity gaps* in tutoring settings
- Explain strategies to narrow *opportunity gaps* in tutoring settings

Research Recommended Approach:

Research Recommendations

Research Recommendation(s), Research says...

An *opportunity gap* in education is defined by Milner (2019) as, “inequities in systems, structures and practices, among other factors, that can prevent children from reaching their potential.” One example of this can be seen by the unequal distribution of resources in high-poverty schools compared to low-poverty schools. According to the Economic Policy Institute, “education funding generally is inadequate and inequitable... (Allegretto, et.al, 2022).” *Opportunity gaps* related to resource distribution may show up in tutoring sessions as students not having the materials necessary, such as a graphing calculator, to engage in the tutoring session.

For this reason on [\[Question number 2\]](#), the option listed below is the most desired response or correct answer:

C. “Tyrone, would it be helpful if I arrange for a place or device from where you can attend the sessions on time? for you to use this extra graphing calculator that I have for upcoming sessions?”

The above strategy seeks to address the differences in access or *opportunity gap* by providing the student with a solution to bridge the gap in the short term. It is important to note, sometimes there will be *opportunity gaps* that are beyond what the tutor is able to resolve and will require a larger intervention at which point the tutor should seek support from the student’s caregiver, school or other appropriate entity.

Research Recommendation

Opportunity gaps are deeply rooted in systemic inequity. Milner suggests, “*opportunity gaps*, especially those related to diversity, exist at all levels in education and are present in the lives of both educators and students.” Students may not have access to the resources they need to reach their full potential, such as, reliable internet at home, transportation, or the necessary technology. Therefore, Option D: All of the above, is the most desired response or correct answer.

PREDICT RESPONSES

Answers -

"Tyrone, would it be helpful for you to use this extra graphing calculator that I have for upcoming sessions?"

"Angelina, I am going to contact and follow up with your mom to see if there is a way that we might address what is happening in your math class."

Tutor responses need to: Tutors should acknowledge the opportunity gap and try to provide support or solution

Correct (1): Tutor acknowledges the opportunity gap that exists, recognizes it, and/or provides support or a solution.

Incorrect (0): Tutor doesn't acknowledge or address the opportunity gap.

Tutor response:	Rationale
I would try to find a calculator for them first and then address the problem with their parents later	1
Hi Tyrone, can you talk to your parents about getting a calculator? In the meantime you can borrow one of my extra ones	1
I would remind the student to not forget the calculator	0
Angelina, that sounds like fun, what kind of movies do you watch in math class?	0
Oh, it must be very hard for you to not have a consistent math teacher.	0
Hi Tyrone. If you tell me why you forget the calculator we can see if we can together work to you having a calculator in next classes.	1
Tyrone, it is important to learn how to use this calculator for the test. Would you like me to bring in an extra one for you?	1

EXPLAIN RESPONSES:

Answers -

Presenting a solution to the situation will narrow the opportunity gap without embarrassing the student.

Understanding when an *opportunity gap* is beyond what is in our control and making others aware of the issue who are better positioned to resolve the problem is what is reasonable for a tutor in this situation.

Tutor responses need to: tutors should explain the tutor's rationale for their predict response

Correct (1): The tutor's response demonstrates that the tutor understands the importance of acknowledging and/or addressing the opportunity gap

Incorrect (0): The tutor doesn't demonstrate tutor's understanding of the importance of acknowledging and/or addressing the opportunity gap

Explain:

Tutor response:	Rationale
This approach acknowledges the student's situation empathetically and aims to provide immediate support by focusing on reinforcing math skills during tutoring sessions. It recognizes the challenge Angelina faces while also actively addressing her academic needs.	1
It may give chance to fix the situation	0
It gives students access to equal learning.	1
This will help the student from forgetting the calculator each session.	0