

W-2: Pursue additional time and resources

Pick Your Battles

Prioritize constraints that most negatively impact students

To ensure that you are able to identify the time or resource constraint that is most holding your students back, focus this investigative process on a sole outcome: improving student achievement. This singular approach can help you separate potentially ineffective levers (field trips to amusement parks) from those that will truly move your students forward (tutoring time on Saturday mornings, after-school programs, science lab materials). Also, the more opinions you can get about what the key constraints and levers in your classroom are, the better the chance you'll come to a correct decision. When you are so close to the action in your classroom – and also potentially frazzled by long hours and stress – it may be the case that you are not in the best position to clearly identify what's *most* holding your students back, or to determine how to address this constraint. Reach out to trusted colleagues and regional Teach For America staff to engage them in this process, as an outside perspective could be exactly what you need.

To see what this looks like in action, visit the Illustrations section.