



# *ASQ Primary and Secondary Education Brief*

Education  
DIVISION



## **Editor's Note: Opening Education's Toolbox**

**By Megan Schmidt, editor**

Anthropologists believe that the use of tools was significant to the evolution of mankind. Ancient humans accomplished tasks that were previously impossible and advanced their position in the food chain by inventing and using tools.<sup>1</sup> Throughout the course of history, tools have built and shaped our world.

Tools are still essential in daily life. Organizations use quality tools as instruments for improvement and innovation. In an education setting, tools can help schools achieve continuous improvement. In this edition of the *Primary and Secondary Education Brief*, we explore the use of quality tools by teachers and students.

We'll read and hear how quality tools provide a method for teachers to collect and analyze data, solve problems, generate ideas, plan actions and make decisions. In this month's exclusive video, Bob Hoglund, an education quality consultant, explains that students who use quality tools tend to have a

greater understanding of their academic and behavioral performance and feel empowered to take ownership and responsibility for their learning.

Each quality tool tends to serve a purpose and it's important to use the right tool at the right time. The education quality tool collections included in this issue from ASQ and the Montgomery County Public School District in Rockville, MD, provide templates, examples and tips explaining when and how to use the tools.

If you have a favorite quality tool that you or your students use, I encourage you to share it and explain how it's used by emailing the *ASQ Primary and Secondary Education Brief* at [mschmidt@asq.org](mailto:mschmidt@asq.org).

**Reference:**

1. "Tool," Wikipedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/tool>.