

Invisible Skill: When the Result Cannot Establish the Preparation Process

A proposal by Ahmad Issam Maadarani separating product quality from demonstrated process performance

Official article information

Article author Ahmad Issam Maadarani	Article number 8313	 Scan to verify the article
Article code —	Protection number —	
Reference —	International Union Of Arab Master Chefs	

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A successful dish may arrive without observed preparation; an organised process may miss its target. This article treats product and process as related but distinct, identifying what observation, records and outcomes can establish. It cannot infer every skill from one sample or prove unobserved procedures through taste.

1. The task defines observation needs

Final-product tasks should not reward guessed methods. A specified skill or procedure requires a way to observe it. Do not add undeclared requirements or equate a good outcome with every required step. List process requirements, observation opportunities and consequences of missing evidence beforehand.

2. Four distinct cases

Process and product may both succeed; documented steps may coexist with failed outcomes; successful products may omit required procedures; process evidence may be insufficient. Each needs a different description. Failed outcomes do not make documented steps worthless; successful outcomes do not erase the brief. Insufficient evidence requires information handling rather than assumed success or failure.

3. Evidence types

Observation records a bounded event; a record shows documented statements; the cook provides an account; the product shows final effects. They are not interchangeable. A photograph cannot establish an entire sequence, nor a tidy record guarantee every statement. Predefine suitable evidence and separate events from causal explanations and generalisation across preparations.

4. Hypothetical case: successful emulsion

A training task requires a specified emulsion method and demonstration of an addition stage. Texture succeeds but the stage was not observed. Preserve product success while recognising undemonstrated skill. If observed deviation occurred, evaluate it against the brief despite the good product. Organiser-side observation failure is not automatically the cook's failure; apply its declared procedure.

5. Observation without unequal interference

Declare observation points and use a bounded form for event, conditions and evidence. Monitoring must not alter some participants' work unequally. Multiple sources may be used where permitted, preserving unexplained differences. "Not observed" differs from "not performed." Documentation intensity follows the question rather than automatically demanding continuous recording.

6. Attribution and double counting

A defect may appear in both process and product. If both are assessed, explain distinct criteria instead of duplicating one penalty under several labels. Do not credit success to

unseen steps because the cook is known for them. Preserve contrary information, such as another preparation succeeding with the same method. Outcomes do not immunise causal explanations.

7. Test the process form

Training can separate observed events, assumed procedures and product effects. Predefine indicators: observation versus execution absence, task relevance, bounded inference and avoiding reconstruction of an entire process from a result. Assessor agreement does not establish record accuracy; documentation needs suitable independent examination.

8. Conclusion

Assessing unseen skill requires making required evidence sufficiently visible, not exposing every detail. Separate process and product, then explain their relationship. This supports useful training and task-proportionate judgment.

9. A concise working sheet

Field	Review question	What to record
Requirement	Does the task assess process?	Define the required step before observation.
Evidence	Observation, record or declaration?	The finished product alone cannot establish the preparation path.
Gap	Unobserved or not performed?	Separate missing observation from evidence of nonperformance.
Responsibility	Who caused the observation gap?	Document examination prevented by the procedure itself.
Counting	Was the effect counted twice?	Separate the process criterion from its product effect.

Suggested citation: Maadarani, Ahmad Issam (2026). "Invisible Skill: When the Result Cannot Establish the Preparation Process" Methodological article, version 1.0.

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