

Lesson Plans and Writing Objectives

Purpose

An objectives-based lesson plan provides a concise and specific road map to communicate to the students the instructional plan for a class session. The topic of the lesson along with the methods and strategies to engage the students can be indicated. Further, strategies to assess the learning are clarified in a lesson plan. With learner-centered teaching, the focus is on continually assessing to ensure the students are absorbing the content.

Description

There are multiple styles of lesson plans and they tend to include the following components:

- **Lesson Overview** — This section will identify the content that will be covered during this session, the instructional strategies to be used, the materials required and the expectations of the students.
- **Instructional Objectives for the Lesson** — Objectives indicate what the students will be able to do or know as a result of this lesson. Each objective should identify a piece of learning which leads to completion of the course outcomes. The key to writing objectives is to make them specific and measurable, e.g. write, compare build, design.
- **Lesson Design and Instructional Strategies** — This is agenda for the class lesson which specifies the activities to engage the adult learner. A variety of tools used to begin the lesson include preassessments, brainstorm, problem or questions on the board or graphic organizers. The lesson content can be a lecture, power point or a discussion with engaging strategies utilized for student interaction. Strategies for small group work should also be considered. Another factor in lesson design is to determine the amount of time for the content and student engagement activities.
- **Self-Assessment** — This section of a lesson provides time for the students to reflect on what they have been taught, to ask questions and to determine how this might apply to their new learning.
- **Review of Next Assignment** — By providing time for clarification of the next assignment, the students have an opportunity to check for understanding of the requirements.

References

Hunter, Madeline. *Mastery Teaching: Increasing Instructional Effectiveness in Elementary and Secondary Schools, Colleges, and Universities* (Madeline Hunter Collection Series) (22nd Ed). Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press, 1994.

- The seven step lesson plan includes modeling, checking for understanding and guided practice. Chapters include Modeling what you Mean and Making Material Meaningful.

Magar, Robert F. *Preparing Instructional Objectives*. Belmont, CA: Davis S. Lake. 1984.

- This book provides guided practice and self assessment to assist the reader in developing explicit objective for an intended result of instruction, rather than the process of instruction.

Saphier, Jon, Mary Ann Haley-Speca and Robert Gower. *The Skillful Teacher: Building Your Teaching Skills*. Acon, MA: Research for Better Teaching, 2008.

- Part Four, Introduction to Curriculum, provides a Mandala of Curriculum agreements and five kinds of teacher thinking from coverage through mastery.

http://writing.colostate.edu/guides/teaching/lesson_plans/pop2f.cfm

- This on line guide provides several pull down menus to assist in the development of lesson plans including a template for the lesson.