

L e s s o n P l a n s

Lesson plans are critical to a successful lesson. They guide instruction, assist the teacher in focusing on essential learning outcomes, and assist the teacher in assessing the success of the lesson. All lesson plans, regardless of the format, have a set of common characteristics. Below is a set of questions to ask yourself about your lesson plan.

- **Learning Outcomes:** What will students be able to do by the end of the lesson?
 - What are the appropriate learning goals/targets/objectives for the lesson?
 - Are they appropriate for the age of the students?
 - Are they linked to appropriate EALRS and GLEs?
- **Rationale:** Why are the lesson goals important?
 - Are goals related to the unit of study?
 - Are goals related to prior learning goals and/or future learning goals?
 - Why should students care about this lesson?
- **Instruction:** What are the activities designed to meet the learning goals?
 - **Opening/Hook**
 - Is the opening of the lesson clear and engaging for the students?
 - Are students motivated?
 - Do they understand the purpose of the lesson and what will happen?
 - **Modeling and/or Prerequisite Information needed**
 - What aspects of the lesson or task require the teacher to demonstrate or model something so that students can understand what is being asked of them?
 - Are there definitions, vocabulary or ideas that need to be reviewed or previewed in order for students to begin work?
 - **Guided Instruction**
 - When appropriate, how does the teacher monitor students while they practice?
 - How does the teacher provide feedback to students?
 - **Independent Practice or Class Work**
 - How is independent work (alone, partner or group) structured?
 - What will you be asking students as they work? What do you anticipate students will do & how will you interact with students to support their thinking, work, & engagement?
 - What will you do if a student does not know how to begin, if a student becomes bored/disruptive, or if a student finishes the task immediately?

• Discussion

- How is discussion facilitated? What questions will you use to encourage students to share their ideas, to listen to one another?
- What are you hoping to accomplish through discussion? How does it meet the learning targets for this particular lesson?

• Closing

- How is the lesson concluded/summarized?
- Is there a link to the next steps?

• Assessment: How is student learning determined?

- What are formal and informal indicators of student learning? What will you hear and see students do that will let you know students understand the task?
- Are assessment strategies linked to learning outcomes?
- What are acceptable student responses?

• Materials: Are all needed materials, resources and technology identified?**• Special Focus: How are the following learning issues addressed?**

- How are students grouped for instruction?
- What specific modifications are made for diverse learners? Think both about academic supports as well as social and organizational supports. (ELL, special needs)
- Are specific ideas noted regarding what to look for as students are working?
- Is the instructional strategy used appropriate for the learning goals?

• Teacher Notes: Did the lesson meet its goals?

- What was successful? Why?
 - What modifications need to be made?
 - What needs to be reinforced before moving on?
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