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Lesson Plan Designs

By William A. Owings, Ed.D., Michael W. Bedwell and Charles Berry

The principal must observe teachers to improve and evaluate effectiveness. Since instructional planning is one of the keys to good instruction, one component of improving teacher effectiveness is the lesson plan. This article provides two formats for lesson planning: a narrative approach and a skeleton approach. Although the ideas in this article may be used whenever written plans are required, not all written plans require elaborate detail.

Narrative Components

There are six important components in a daily lesson plan.

- Unit. The lesson should relate to a specific unit of study such as Reconstruction in social studies or Poetry in English.
- Title. The lesson should have a specific focus reflected in the title.
- Objective. The objective of the lesson should be stated in behavioral terms. An example would be, "After the lesson the student will be able to list five economic changes that Reconstruction had in the South."
- Motivation/Set. The plan should have a motivation or initiating set of activities to direct the learner to the objective.
- Lesson. The plan should include a basic narrative of what is to be accomplished during the given time period and how it will be accomplished.
- Summary. The plan should state how the lesson will be brought to closure.

Narrative Sample Plan

An example of the basic narrative lesson plan is provided below.

UNIT: Reconstruction

TITLE: Summary of Unit on Reconstruction

OBJECTIVE: After the lesson the students will be able

to list five of the economic and five of the social changes in the South that resulted from the Reconstruction era.

MOTIVATION/SET: Students will enter the room and a drill will be on the board for them to complete. As usual, the drill may or may not be collected for a quiz grade. This drill will not be collected.

LESSON: A review of the five major economic and the five major social changes due to Reconstruction will be reviewed. The class will divide into two groups. Prepared questions will be asked to the class in a "baseball game" format. Students may choose for a single, double, triple, or homerun level of difficulty. Four innings will be played. The last five minutes will be allocated to questions and answers concerning tomorrow's test.

SUMMARY: The questions and answers will summarize the objective of the lesson. The homework assignment will be for the students to study for the test.

Skeleton Approach

Another approach to lesson plan design is the skeleton approach. This format provides a basic framework for important instructional components.

[See next page for Skeleton Approach Sample.]

Summary

The principal must observe and evaluate teacher performance. The lesson plan is a critical instrument in the process. Lesson plans should contain several components. In a narrative format components include the unit, title, objective, motivation/set, lesson, and the summary. The skeleton approach contains objectives, procedure, activities, materials, assignments, and evaluation.

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Skeleton Sample

SUBJECT _____	PERIOD: _____	DATE: _____
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE(S): The student will:		
		_____ SOL# _____
PROCEDURE: (Lesson description, outline, etc.)		

ACTIVITIES:		
___ Notes from Lecture	___ Class Discussion	_____ KEY EXPERIENCES _____
___ Small Groups	___ Work at Board	
___ Guest/Student Speaker	___ Worksheet	
___ Film, Filmstrip, Videotape Notes	___ Solving Problems	
___ Text Assignment	___ Research	
___ Directed Reading	___ Writing Assignment	
___ Teacher Demonstration	___ Lab	
___ Student Demonstration	___ Test/Quiz	
___ Other _____		
SPECIAL MATERIALS:		
___ Periodicals	___ Transparency	
___ Film, Filmstrip, Slides, or Videotape _____	_____ title _____	
___ Instructional TV		
___ Other _____		
ASSIGNMENTS:		
Homework:		
Long Range:		
EVALUATION:		
___ Observation of Student Response	___ Individual Conference	
___ Test	___ Quiz	
___ Paper Due	___ Check Homework	
___ Other _____		
NOTES:		