



Designing and Timing a Lesson

Designing a lesson (both content and learning activities) is best accomplished by starting with the Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) for the entire course. Which outcome or outcomes will this lesson address? Essentially, you need to break down the Student Learning Outcomes for the course into smaller learning objectives in a lesson.

For example, perhaps one of the SLOs for the course is for students to be able to critically analyze a journal article. There are a lot of individual, smaller steps that go into learning to critically analyze a journal article—those are your lesson objectives. For this lesson, the objective might be for the students to be able to identify the parts of a properly presented scientific paper, and then to analyze first the article's abstract and discuss how it helps to guide the reader's assessment of the rest of the article.

Step 1: Identify your **Student Learning Objectives (SLOs)**

Be sure they are concrete, observable, and student-centered, and that they logically follow as building blocks towards the achievement of the Student Learning Objectives for the course.

By the end of the class students will be able to....

Objective 1:

Objective 2:

Objective 3:

Time permitting, what will you want the students to do that will demonstrate that they have achieved the objective?

Objective 1:

Objective 2:



Objective 3:

Step 2: Preparation (what needs to be done in advance?)

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

Step 3: Lesson Schedule (Plan the activities and methods by which you will achieve your outcomes.)

Schedule (Indicate when each portion of the lesson begins and when it ends)	Begin Time:	End Time:	Total Time:
1			
2			
3			



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4			
5			
6			

It is useful to write out the instructions or what you'll say to get the students going:

Step 4: Contingency Plans/ Hip Pocket Activities. (a) What assumptions might you be making (e.g., that students did the homework; that students will understand the material)? (b) How will you adapt if they prove incorrect? (c) What will you do if you run out of time? (d) What will you do if you have extra time?