

How Can I Improve Lessons with a 4-step Plan?

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How Can I Improve Lessons with a Four-Step Plan?

What are my goals for this lesson?

I will present, explain, share, introduce, review, lead a discussion, motivate, etc.

What do I want my students to learn or be able to do by the end of this class lesson?

The student will ...

1. Focus

What can I write on the board/show on the screen to get students thinking?

Could I show a picture or video clip to introduce this lesson?

How can my focus review or preview material?

2. The presentation

If I lecture, how can I add visuals and questions?

How do I tie my presentation to what students read for class?

How do I remind myself to have students do something every 8-10 minutes?

3. Application of material (doesn't necessarily happen after step 2; may be blended with step 2)

Can short, paired activities work?

Short, discussion questions in groups or whole group

Students solve problems, edit another's paper, or write original questions

4. Review

I can summarize material.

Students can summarize with one-minute papers or tickets out-the-door.

Lesson Plan Template

Title of Lesson

Date

My goals:

Student objectives:

1. Focus

2. Presentation

3. Application of material

4. Review

Reminders for next time:

Discussion Questions

1. With only 50 minutes in a class, I know that I won't get a lot of student interaction in every lesson. Is it OK to have some classes that are just presentation of new material, and others that are just discussion or application?
2. As a new professor, I have been told that I need to cover all of a certain book to have my students ready for the next class in our sequence. How do I incorporate student application in the classroom and make sure I get through the textbook?
3. Do all students want to work application problems or have discussion? Don't some students just want to come to class and "absorb" the material I deliver? What should I do about those who just want to "sit and get" the material?
4. Will students work together in class on small discussions or problem-solving assignments if those assignments are not graded? How do I keep students on-task, especially with large class numbers?
5. My department chair will only evaluate me on days "when I am lecturing," in order to see my ability to share information. If I use this lesson plan, will I have to change it on evaluation days, leaving out the application?

Resources for Further Reading

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