Components of An Effective Lesson Plan

The purpose in laying out a lesson before hand on paper is to
- be certain that you cover the material you want to,
- know why you’re covering it,
- measure the success of that lesson,
- keep a record of what you’ve taught,
- make certain you have the time to cover it, and
- the materials to do it with.

There are many formats for lesson plans. There are many methods of disseminating what your students need to learn: Thematic Instruction, Cooperative Learning, Project Based Learning are some examples. New ones are being formulated all the time.

One organizational method is called Instructional Theory Into Practice, better known by its acronym ITIP. This format is useful when presenting material in lecture style presentations, so it’s not appropriate at all levels for all kinds of materials.

ITIP follows a particular organizational structure.

1. Inductive Set: Otherwise known as getting your students attention. Sometimes the inductive set consists of the teacher asking a probing question, sometimes with the teacher playing the “devil’s advocate.” Sometimes the inductive set refers back to a previous lesson and uses that connection to lead into the current day’s lesson. The more imaginative and creative, the better.

2. Objective: What is it you are about to teach your students? It wouldn’t hurt to let them know what you have in mind to begin with, so go ahead and tell them.


4. Check for Understanding: As you present material, you’ll want to see if the students are getting what it is you’re teaching. Ask questions of your students. Watch faces. Listen for students who are tuned out and digging in their desks.

5. Guided Practice: If appropriate you’ll want students to practice the skill you’re teaching them (if indeed you are teaching them a skill). You need to give them a chance to practice so that they can ask questions and you can make corrections.

6. Closure: Don’t leave them dangling. Wrap up the show by summarizing what you’ve just taught your students.

ITIP can be characterized by this phrase: Tell them what you’re going to teach them,
teach them, then tell them what you taught them.

Also included in formal lesson plans:
- How will you measure your success? What should the students have learned and be able to do as a consequence of your lesson?

- Reflection: A good lesson plan format allows room for you to record how the lesson went. How would you change the lesson to make it better next time?

- Time: How long do you think it’ll take you to present the opening/inductive set? How long for the body or main section of the lesson? How long to close the lesson? How long altogether?

- Materials: Some lessons will require materials to be supplied. Video players, clay, string, rulers, protractors. Notating them ahead of time will help you remember to have them ready when needed.