

# Effective Lesson Design

## Chunked out Step-by-Step

Inspired by Gretchen Bridgers [Always a Lesson](#)

**Step 1:** Write a one-sentence lesson plan for your lessons: What you want students to know, how you will know if they reached the goal, and why the students are learning the content/skill.

For example, “Students will be able to evaluate the credibility of online sources by discussing in groups the pros and cons of each source so that they make better decisions.”

Or

“Students will be able to identify high quality textual evidence by annotating the article thoroughly then finding three pieces of text and working with their writing partner to determine its quality so that they can more strongly support their claims.”

THE ONE-SENTENCE LESSON PLAN

Students will be able to \_\_\_\_\_ (accomplish outcome X)  
by \_\_\_\_\_ (using method Y)  
so that \_\_\_\_\_ (they will be helped in Z way).

Courtesy of Norman Eng at normaneng.org

**Step 2:** For each lesson (even for just one course), break down your one-sentence lesson plan into chunks then label each part as “I do” or “We do” or “You do”.

- ✓ What needs to be direct instruction?
- ✓ What should partner/small group work be?
- ✓ What should be independent practice?
- ✓ How am I checking their progress and eventual hitting of the target?
- ✓ Where do behavior flare-ups usually occur within that and how can I anticipate that better?

**Step 3:** Script out questions you want to ask and potential responses then think through where you will intentionally plan checks for understanding (aka life vests for our students). Get the big picture of the lesson flow.

**Step 4:** Work smarter, not harder. Reuse the format for your lesson designs, lean on your PLC to work together to build incredible lessons with plenty of room for autonomy, and reach out to your coach for support!