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One-Sentence Lesson Plan Handout
From *Cult of Pedagogy* Guest Post Norman Eng

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THE WHAT

First, WHAT do you want students to know (or do) by the end of class? Identify the content or skill to be learned.

Example: Identify and define the steps in the formation of the earth.

Example: Write a clear topic sentence.

Example: Identify the push and pull factors of westward migration.

THE HOW

Next, HOW will students reach this goal? What method, strategy, tool, or activity will you employ to make sure they get it? This is the wrestling with the content or skill. These are the engagement strategies, the literacy strategies, the actual "thing" the students are doing.

Example: Watching a video about the formation of the earth then labeling an image.

Example: Utilize mentor sentences to understand the structure then write their own.

Example: Work in pairs to identify the evidence in the text and fill in the graphic organizer.

THE WHY – The most important part

Finally, WHY are students learning this content/skill? This is the "so what" part. Why do students need to know or do this? What's in it for them? How do they benefit? This is where our strong relationships with and knowledge of our students makes it relevant.

Example: So that students can better understand the mechanics of modern climate change.

Example: So that students can clearly communicate their ideas in an organized manner and have a better chance of "winning" an argument.

Example: So students can understand modern reasons for migration as well as the challenges that accompany them (border crisis, overpopulation during refugee crisis, policies around immigration, etc).

SIMPLE LESSON OUTLINE

One-Sentence Lesson Plan Structure: Students will be able to _____ [accomplish outcome X] by _____ [using method Y] so that _____ [they will be helped in Z way].

Opening: Hook students with a question or activity relevant to the Why.

Mini-Lesson: Teach students explicitly the what – model the steps. Checks for understanding are essential here.

Activity: Have students engage in the method, the How. This is where engagement strategies are employed.

Closing/Assessment: Can students do the first part of your one-sentence lesson plan? What is the proof?

Prompt to Use in Generative AI to Analyze an Existing Lesson Plan

I need a traditional lesson plan analyzed to produce a one-sentence lesson plan. Remember, the structure I want the one-sentence lesson plan in is as follows: Students will be able to _____ [accomplish outcome X] by _____ [using method Y] so that _____ [they will be helped in Z way]. The method should be engaging for students in high school. The "so that" should be relevant to modern high-school teenagers. I would like three choices for each lesson plan I upload.

Then attach or copy/paste an existing lesson plan in whatever format it is currently in. You can then add:

Now provide me an outline of a lesson for this one-sentence lesson plan that includes a Bell Ringer, a mini-lesson with explicit instruction, engagement strategies utilizing the gradual release process, and then a wrap up/exit ticket.