



LESSON PLANNING RESOURCES

10 Reasons To Make A Lesson Plan

1. Helps you stay organized and focused while teaching.
2. Helps to ensure your lesson contributes to the big idea(s) you are working toward.
3. Helps to ensure you have considered, prepared and gathered all of the materials that you will need for the lesson.
4. Reminds you that you must consider the needs of all students and differentiate your lesson to meet those needs.
5. Provides a record of what you and the students have been working on and helps you to see where to go next.
6. Can be used by your Cooperating Teacher or a substitute teacher if you need to be away.
7. Provides a starting point when planning next year's teaching.
8. Provides your Faculty Advisor with an understanding of what you are doing and where you have made changes in the lesson in response to students. It's a good starting point for conversations about your classroom practice.
9. Can be used as a great tool for sharing ideas, getting feedback and gaining valuable insights from your Cooperating Teacher.
10. Provides examples of your creativity, knowledge and skill that can be included in your teaching portfolio.

Essential Elements of a Lesson Plan Template

A complete lesson plan template should include space for the following things:

- **“Big idea” and/or “Essential Question”**

What is the big idea, broad concept, or essential question you are working towards in this lesson.

- **Grade Level & Subject**

What are the grade level(s) and subject(s) for this lesson?

- **Lesson Objective or Focus**

What are you hoping to achieve during this specific lesson?



- **General & Specific Learning Objectives**

What are the general and specific learning objectives from the Manitoba Education curriculum document(s) that relate to this lesson?

- **Materials & Resources**

What materials & resources do you need to prepare and have on hand *before* the lesson (e.g. photocopies, manipulatives, tools etc.)? What technology are you planning to use and have you tested it *before* the lesson?

- **Estimated Timeline**

How much time do you think you will need for each part of the lesson?

- **Step-by-step Procedure**

What will you do and how? What will the students be doing? With whom? Where? When and how will you distribute or collect materials? How will you help students make transitions? You may want to divide this section into parts such as:

- Introductory activities (e.g. engagement, motivational hooks, connection to prior knowledge, connection to lived experience, activating etc.)
- Developmental activities (e.g. mini-lesson, exploration, group discussions, problem solving activities, acquiring, etc.)
- Consolidating activities (e.g. applying, evaluation phase, lesson closure, homework etc.)
- Extension activities (in case you or the students finish early)

- **Special Considerations**

How will you differentiate the lesson for particular students? Are there other factors you need to consider (e.g. safety, logistics etc.)?

- **Assessment Considerations**

What do you want the students to learn? How will you know if they did? What formative assessment strategies (e.g. carefully planned questioning to encourage in-depth/critical thinking; specific aspects of student behaviour you want to pay attention to or observe during the lesson; techniques such as exit cards, student journal entries, or not-for-grades quizzes, finger counts to indicate level of understanding etc.) will you use during the lesson?



- **Reflections**

What were you hoping to achieve? What went well in the lesson? What changes did you make during the lesson and what prompted you to do so? What would you change next time you teach this lesson?

Building a Lesson Plan Template that Works for You

You will want to have a lesson plan template that you can use throughout your teacher education program and as you begin your teaching career. Your template should be organized in a way that makes sense to you. It should also be easy to reproduce and fill in.

To start building your template, consider how you want to arrange the essential elements listed above. You may decide to place each element on a single page or you may start with a two-page layout. Of course, if you build the template using word processing software the spaces for each element will expand as you type in the details.

Here are some lesson planning templates that have been created by professors in the faculty.

Template Description & Link	Author/ Contributor
A template based on the “Five E” instructional model, suggested for use in math, science, health and other subjects. Useful for early, middle, & senior streams. http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/education/media/Lesson_Plan_Template_-K-8_Science.docx	Created by Barbara McMillan
A favourite template from <i>Success for All Learners</i> (Manitoba Education). Useful for all streams and subject areas. http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/education/media/Lesson_Planning_Success_for_All_Learners.pdf	Contributed by Charlotte Enns
Four Column Planner (From <i>Independent Together</i>) http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/education/media/Four_Column_Planner_-_MB_Ed.doc	Created by Manitoba Education



Other Lesson Planning Resources

You can also check out the following links to look at other templates and to learn more about lesson planning:

Manitoba Education

<http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/cur/ela/docs/sr2plan5.html>

- explains the activate, acquire, apply approach to lesson planning

http://alce.merlin.mb.ca/Intro/module_3/Section%203.4.htm

- basic elements of a lesson plan according to Manitoba Education

The New Teacher's Companion, Gini Cunningham (Ch. 7 Lesson Plans & Unit Plans)

<http://www.ascd.org/publications/books/109051/chapters/Lesson-Plans-and-Unit-Plans@-The-Basis-for-Instruction.aspx>

- suggested approaches to lesson and unit planning for beginning teachers

Proteacher Directory <http://www.proteacher.com/020001.shtml>

- [a variety of lesson plans templates posted by teachers](#)

The Lesson Plans Page <http://lessonplanspage.com/guide-to-writing-lesson-plans/>

- gives 10 steps to develop a quality lesson plan

Teacher Planet <http://www.lessonplans4teachers.com/templates.php>

- provides free downloadable templates in a variety of formats and for different subjects or purposes as well as lesson planning software