

## Learning Intentions and Success Criteria

Creating clear learning intentions and success criteria is a fundamental skill for effective teaching. These elements guide both the teacher and students throughout the lesson, providing focus and clarity on what's to be achieved and how success will be measured.

### Learning Intentions

Learning intentions (sometimes called "learning objectives") describe what students are expected to know, understand, or be able to do by the end of a lesson or unit. They provide a clear focus for both teaching and learning.

#### How to Create Learning Intentions:

- **Be student-centered:** Focus on what the student will learn or achieve, not just what the teacher will teach.
- **Use clear and simple language:** Avoid jargon or overly complex terms. The learning intention should be easily understandable by students.
- **Be specific and measurable:** Instead of saying "understand the concept," aim for something more specific like "explain the process" or "identify the key components."
- **Link to larger goals:** Ensure the learning intention connects to broader curriculum goals or long-term learning outcomes.

#### Examples of Learning Intentions:

- "I will be able to identify and explain the main events in a story."
- "I will understand the process of photosynthesis and describe it in my own words."
- "I will solve multi-step algebraic equations and explain the reasoning behind each step."

## 2. Success Criteria

Success criteria define how students can demonstrate that they have met the learning intentions. These criteria break down the learning intention into specific, observable, and measurable actions or outcomes.

## How to Create Success Criteria:

- Break it down: Deconstruct the learning intention into specific steps or actions students need to take.
- Make them observable and measurable: The success criteria should focus on things students can demonstrate or produce, not just abstract goals.
- Align with the learning intention: Ensure that the criteria clearly relate to the learning goal and focus on essential aspects of the learning.
- Use language students understand: Like the learning intention, success criteria should be clear, straightforward, and accessible for students.

## Examples of Success Criteria:

- For the learning intention "I will be able to identify and explain the main events in a story.":
  - "I can identify the key events in the story."
  - "I can explain how each event contributes to the story's theme."
  - "I can use evidence from the text to support my explanation."
- For the learning intention "I will understand the process of photosynthesis and describe it in my own words.":
  - "I can name the main stages of photosynthesis."
  - "I can explain how plants use sunlight to make food."
  - "I can use a diagram to label the key parts involved in photosynthesis."
- For the learning intention "I will solve multi-step algebraic equations and explain the reasoning behind each step.":
  - "I can simplify the equation step by step."
  - "I can explain why I performed each step of the solution."
  - "I can check my answer for accuracy."

## 3. Tips for Effectiveness:

- **Involve students** in the process: Ask students to reflect on what they need to learn and how they will know they are successful. This can help deepen their understanding and investment in the lesson.
- **Be flexible:** While having clear intentions and criteria is essential, be ready to adjust them if students need more support or if the lesson evolves in unexpected ways.

- **Review regularly:** Frequently refer back to the learning intention and success criteria throughout the lesson. This helps keep students on track and provides ongoing opportunities for feedback.
- **Use formative assessment:** You can assess whether students have met the success criteria through various activities (e.g., quick checks, peer reviews, class discussions) during or at the end of the lesson.

### **In Summary:**

- Learning Intentions outline what the students will learn or achieve.
- Success Criteria detail how students will demonstrate that they have achieved the learning intention. By using both, you provide clarity and structure for the students, making learning more transparent and purposeful.

**Standard(s)****Learning Intentions**

GOAL: describe what students are expected to know, understand, or be able to do by the end of a lesson or unit.

Be student-centered; Use clear and simple language; Be specific and measurable; Link to larger goals

**Success Criteria**

GOAL: define how students can demonstrate that they have met the learning intentions; break down the learning intention into specific, observable, and measurable actions or outcomes.

Break it down; make them observable and measurable; align with the learning intention; use language students understand

**Tips for Effectiveness:**

- **Involve students** in the process: Ask students to reflect on what they need to learn and how they will know they are successful. This can help deepen their understanding and investment in the lesson.
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