7 Components to an Ideal Lesson

MCPS Board Meeting
March 14, 2024

Aimee Kuhn (Ms. K)

(8th grade Financial Literacy and 9th grade Business Essentials)

This is my second year teaching, with only a background in business. (So, I had NO CLUE how to teach, or what I was getting myself into with this career switch)

During several meetings last year, and this year, I have learned the 7 Components to an Ideal Lesson Plan. Honestly, none of it really clicked until I began utilizing these steps in the classroom!

The 7 Components have helped me by:

★ Serving as a roadmap or guideline to creating lessons
★ Hooks
★ Toggling with instruction, then using Kagan or other structures to check for understanding
★ Bringing the lesson full circle with an Exit Ticket relating to the objective for the day

The 7 Components to an Ideal Lesson Plan have helped me learn to teach **EFFECTIVELY**, the students have fun, are more engaged, excited, and retain the information better! My students' performance has improved significantly compared to last year!!

Paige Mattingly: 9th grade Reading and Writing

Faculty meetings: Modeling the process

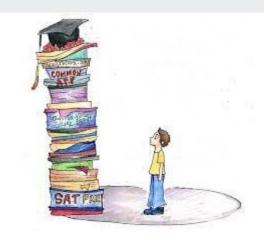Learning targets assessed each day through exit slips

    Informs my instruction
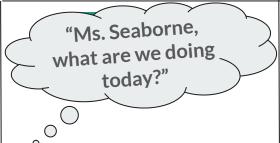
Last year: scores plateaued (OTUS data)

This year: scores are steadily improving

Student conversations in class are richer in content

Seeing evidence of mastery in exit slips, classroom discussions, formative assessments

Sierra Seaborne- 9th- Biology & Earth Science

> "Ms. Seaborne, what are we doing today?"

A question I **HATED** to answer. Not because I was asked by students numerous times a day; this was a question I often asked myself...

WHERE are we going?

- Implementing the 7 steps within the classroom is the best instructional 'direction' I have taken.
- Instead of entering into my classroom with a general idea of 'where I was going' I now have a road map with clear and precise directions that drive my instruction. I know each daily 'check point' that I must venture through to get to my final destination- **student success.**

7 steps:

- DAILY learning target.
- Intentional, spiral review (Questions pulled from previous tests to insure congruency.)
- "Hook" (Fun for both teacher AND students!)
- Direct Instruction that is 'chunked'. (Teacher talk).
- Toggling (When on a road trip, you must check the map numerous times along the way- if a wrong turn was made, this is the time to correct it!)
- Review the daily learning target.
- Exit Slip (Being able to reach our final destination by being able to accurately answer D.Q.)

Guided QUESTION: What communities were impacted most by the pellagra epidemic?

¿Qué comunidades se vieron más afectadas por la epidemia de pelagra?

I can... analyze molecular structures of NIACIN in plants, as well as soil composition data to collect evidence ...analizar las luchas moleculares de niacina en las plantas, así como los datos de composición del suelo para recopilar evidencia.

Lisa Minor

8th grade Social Studies (15+ years)

How I best learned about the 7 components:

- Faculty meetings where the components were demonstrated by admin

- Instructional rounds where we could visit other classrooms to see the components in action

- Working with instructional coaches for learning target/standard/exit ticket congruence.

- Trying them for myself!

The 7 components gives us a new "recipe" for building a lesson. It makes sense and the classroom results prove that it works

New improved recipe

OUT WITH THE OLD
IN WITH THE NEW

For us "experienced" teachers it is really just tweaking what we were using in the past with the old gradual release "I do, we do, you do" method, "bellwork" at the beginning class, have the learning target written on the board, etc.

- **Spiral Review** - true SR brings back that learning, not just past units but from past grade levels.
- **Verbalizing Learning Targets** - For SS it's discussing the compelling question for the unit EVERYDAY and then talking about the current lesson supporting questions and clearing up any unknown vocabulary in that question.
- **Hooks** - Quick and easy, really help with transition into the lesson
- **Toggle Questioning** - Checks for understanding for entire class (white boards, KAGAN strategies, 100% participation)
- **Exit Ticket** - Not new but making sure they are congruent to the learning target for the lesson.