Developing Teaching Objectives

Objectives are what a student must achieve in order to accomplish what the teacher states is to be learned, comprehended or mastered. Every great lesson begins with a set of well formed objectives. The objectives provide several vital functions. They serve as the instructional goals, they are the foundation for student expectations, and they even serve as the base for the construction of tests and quizzes. Objectives for your lessons must have the following characteristics:

1. Be stated in specific terms
2. Call for a specific behavior
3. Be worded in terms of what the student will do—not what the teacher should do
4. Be stated singly, with only one behavior per objective
5. Be measurable
6. Contain all three of the following components:
   1. The BEHAVIOR (expressed with a action verb)
   2. The CONDITION under which the behavior is to be carried out
   3. The CRITERIA/DEGREE of acceptable performance

**Examples**

1. BEHAVIOR
   * Identify parts of the agrifood industry
   * Develop a tissue culture
   * Describe three leadership styles
   * Calibrate a grain drill
   * Locate agricultural research documents
   * Design a filtration system
2. CONDITION
   * Given a commodity area
   * Given a tomato plant and necessary equipment
   * As presented in the PowerPoint
   * Within the allotted amount of time
   * Before the end of the class period
3. CRITERIA/DEGREE
   * With no errors
   * With 75% survival rate
   * With complete accuracy
   * Leaving no gaps or overlays
   * From at least 10 URL websites
   * According to the National Pork Council guidelines

**Additional Tips**

1. Do not use verbs such as “learn”, “understand”, or “know”. These are not measurable!
2. Relate your objectives to practical, usable applications.
3. In your planning, it is better to over-plan than to under-plan.
4. In your delivery of the plan, do not create too many objectives (ideal is 3-5). It is better thoroughly complete a few objectives than to surface skim many objectives.

**Application**

1. Behavior

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1. Behavior and Condition

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1. All three

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1. All three

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