



Bear Bites

Information for Classroom Instruction
School Year 2008 - Edition #3

This year, "Bear Bites" will present information on objectives. The following information comes from the Penn State's Research on Teaching, Learning, and Technology.

Tie Different Levels of Learning Objectives with Activities

When you are lesson planning, one thing to keep in mind is to relate the activities in class to the learning objectives. By doing this, you will increase the probability that the level of learning you expect will occur. You also will make sure that the students are learning what they should.

There needs to be a clear congruence between the learning objectives which you have designed and the learning activities which you select to realize those objectives. If, for instance, in an education course, an important objective is for students to develop coherent lesson plans, then it would not be adequate to simply ask them to compare different kinds of plans (even though this might be a sound foundational activity). To have confidence that students could meet the objective to develop a lesson plan, it would be necessary for them to actually produce a satisfactory lesson plan.

After you create the learning objectives, you should not set them aside. Instead, you should keep them in mind when you select student activities. You will want to select student activities based on the level of the objectives.

In order to pair the activities to the objectives, you should consider:

- What do the students need to do in order to achieve the course goals and objectives?
- What activities are necessary to achieve the level of learning you expect?
- What is the ideal way to learn course content if money, time, location were not of concern?
- Which of those ways can be incorporated into this course?
- What kind of knowledge/skills do you want to the students to apply in later courses or in their internship or jobs?
- What learning activities will motivate students?
- What will the students do in class, out of class, and in small group sessions?
- What is the nature of the class and how might that impact the range of student activities?