



Kentucky Department of

Our Children,

Our Commonwealth

Education

Take a Closer Look: Learning Targets

Today's Learning Targets

- ▶ I can explain why learning targets are essential to effective teaching and learning
- ▶ I can describe the attributes of clear learning targets
- ▶ I can classify effective, somewhat effective, and ineffective learning targets based on attributes.
- ▶ I can write a learning target congruent to a standard

So, Why Learning Targets

▶ Discussion Starter

Identify TWO ways the use of clear learning targets will change the way we approach student learning and assessment.

Student Benefits

▶ Daily learning targets communicated to students is the first step in giving students accountability for the knowledge, thinking and reasoning, performance skills and/or products.

▶ Setting goals leads to increased student achievement.

“Students can hit any target they can see that holds still for them.”

-Rick Stiggins

Quote

Students who can identify what they are learning significantly outscore those who cannot.

~ Robert Marzano

Teacher Benefits

“Teachers who truly understand what they want their students to accomplish will almost surely be more instructionally successful than teachers whose understanding of hoped-for student accomplishments is murky.”

-W. James Popham

Teacher Benefits

“To reach a destination, you need to know exactly where you are headed, plan the best route to get there, and monitor your progress along the way.”

-Moss & Brookhart

Teacher Benefits

- **The learning targets are your assessment.**
- **Clarity in planning-focus on instructional activities and strategies to help all students to reach the specific target.**

Why Clear Learning Targets

Students

- Reflect on their own learning
- Assess their own growth
- Will know what questions to ask
- Have a clear understanding of what they should know.

Why Clear Learning Targets

Teachers

- **Can make better instructional choices**
- **Can gauge student mastery**
- **Have an instant formative assessment tool**
- **Distills the curriculum into manageable chunks**

What is a Learning Target

“Learning targets are student-friendly descriptions—via words, pictures, actions, or some combination of the three—of what you intend students to learn or accomplish in a given lesson. When shared meaningfully, they become actual targets students can see and direct here efforts toward.”

-Moss & Brookhart

Attributes of Clear Targets

Learning targets (are):

- Accomplished in a few days at most
- Specific to what and how
- Usually consist of concept (noun), skill (verb) and often a specified context
- Teachable/learnable using a variety of instructional activities, strategies, contexts and tools
- One component in a sequence of accomplishments-focused on what is to be **LEARNED**

Activity: Think/Pair/Share

- **What have you learned from the last few slides?**
- **What was important to you?**
- **Where there any AH-HAHS?**

Clear Learning Target Samples

➤ 5th Grade Mathematics

- I can describe how regular polygons are different than irregular polygons.

➤ 6th Grade Science

- I can describe the impacts of overpopulation of species on individual habitat and ecosystems.

➤ High School English

- I can identify and discuss the importance of symbols of order in the novel in an expository essay.

Keep in mind...

- **STANDARDS** are externally created goals **AND** several individual learning targets must be achieved to master one standard, thus somewhat creating a pacing guide or map....
- **ACTIVITIES** are methods teachers use to help students achieve a learning target.
- Daily **LEARNING TARGETS** are what the student is suppose to learn when they **DO** the activities.
- **FOUR** types of learning targets: Knowledge, Reasoning, Skill, and Product

Knowledge Targets

- **Verbs: explain, understand, describe, identify, tell, name, list, define, label, match, choose, recall, and recognize**
- **EXAMPLES**
 - I can identify and describe elements of design in a work of art
 - I can describe how organisms interact with each other to transfer energy
 - I can label the border states of Kentucky

Reasoning Targets

- **Verbs: analyze, compare-contrast, synthesize, classify, infer-deduce, evaluate**
- **EXAMPLES**
 - I can compare forms of government
 - I can draw inferences about a population based on data from a random sample
 - I can analyze fitness assessments to set personal fitness goals
 - I can distinguish between historical fact and opinion

Performance Skill Targets

- **Verbs: observe, listen, perform, do, question, read, speak, assemble, operate, use, measure, model, explore**
- **EXAMPLES**
 - I can measure the length of an object
 - I can introduce myself in Spanish
 - I can graph a quadratic function and determine the coordinates of the maximum or minimum.

Product Targets

- **Verbs: design, produce, create, develop, make, write, draw, represent, display, model, construct**
- **EXAMPLES**
 - I can create a model of the solar system
 - I can write a research report
 - I can create a personal fitness plan

Learning Targets should be...

- **Posted daily for students to see**
- **Communicated and shared with students at the beginning and throughout the lesson**
- **Formatively assessed during the lesson.**
- **Revisited at the end of the lesson**

Using a Learning Target Throughout a Lesson Video

- Using a Learning Target Throughout a Lesson Video

Quote

- ▶ **The most effective teaching and the most effective student learning happen when teachers design the right learning target for today's lesson and use it together with their students to aim for and assess understanding.**

Is it REALLY worth it?

YES!

[Saturday Night Live Video](#)

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