



EnvironMentors© Lesson Planning

Teacher and Mentor Summary

In April, all students will present their project to a class of elementary school students. (EnvironMentors staff will coordinate these presentations.) At the EnvironMentors Fair, students will also present their projects to judges. The following tips can be applied to both development of the lesson plan, which you will present to the elementary school children, as well as to development of your presentation for the adult judges.

Objectives

- Identify one main point from his/her research that the lesson will discuss.
- Develop all the pieces of the lesson plan.
- Give the lesson in an elementary school classroom.

Activities

- Identify one main point from his/her research to discuss during the lesson.
- Develop an introduction to the lesson that identifies the main point.
- Design activities to illustrate the main point.
- Develop a concluding activity that tests for knowledge gained during the lesson.
- Practice the lesson for friends and family.
- Give the lesson in an elementary school classroom.

Suggested Rubric

Total Value= 10 points To what extent did the student:

- Identify one main point from his/her research to discuss during the lesson.
- Develop an introduction to the lesson that identifies the main point.
- Design activities to illustrate the main point.
- Develop a concluding activity that tests for knowledge gained during the lesson.
- Prepare/Practice for giving the lesson.
- Keep the students engaged throughout the whole lesson.
- Incorporate visuals, such as the display board and other items related to the lesson topic.



Student Lesson Planning Worksheet

Points to remember when planning your lesson:

1) *Many people learn best when they are **doing***, children and adults alike.

Elementary school students and many adults will learn better when they are active participants in the lesson. Including hands-on, participatory activities in your lesson will help the students learn better.

2) *People have different learning styles.*

You will find that some people are visual learners (they learn best through what they see), others are active learners (they learn best by being active), and still others are auditory learners (they learn best through what they hear). Try to include as many different learning styles as possible in your lesson so you will reach all types of learners.

3) *Many people learn best when they are having fun.*

Elementary school students are much more apt to learn when they are having a great time. Don't be afraid to be lively and enthusiastic in teaching your lesson. Try to include fun, participatory, and interactive activities that will really immerse the kids and adults in your lesson.

4) *People learn best when a lesson is organized, well prepared, and practiced ahead of time.*

In order for your audience to really understand your lesson, you must Practice, Practice, Practice. The time you put into being well prepared will be reflected in how engaged you are in your presentation. Giving short descriptions without much information will make you come across as if you don't know what you are talking about. A great way to prepare is to arrange a practice teaching session with a friends and family (be sure to include all ages) and see how they respond.

Creating the Pieces of Your Lesson Plan

Main Point

What is the main point about your project you wish to communicate to the elementary school students (and the adult judges)?

Ideas for Visuals and Demonstrations

- Items that help illustrate your project such as samples of soil, plant, or water samples, etc.
- Booklets
- Maps
- Posters
- Brochures
- Activity Cards
- Models
- Puzzles
- Games
- Photographs
- Tape Cassettes

Things to Consider:

- Teach to the kid who isn't paying attention. If you have his/her attention, then you will have all the students' attention. Ask questions, such as, "Joey, can you tell me what pandas eat?"
- *Use appropriate language* for the age group. If you are talking to a first grader, use the word "home" or the phrase "where this animal lives" instead. If you are talking about "riparian areas", instead say "areas surrounding rivers and streams."