



Effective Upper School Teaching & Leadership with Dr. Christopher Schlect

Lesson 6: Planning Effective Lessons

Outline:

Planning Effective Lessons

Planning happens at three scales: quarterly, weekly, daily

Schlect divides 10th grade class into three groups

- They are given a 1547 painting - located in Whitehall Palace, one of Henry the 8th's estate. It refers to the discussion of Henry's divorce controversy

Schlect's philosophy with planning

- For Schlect's classes, he always develops an objective plan for himself that students are not privy to.

Lessons are divided into two parts

- Planning (non-contact time)
- Actual delivery (contact time)

Central part of teachers' discipline is planning, because it:

- Makes class time valuable
- Reflects intentionality about how to spend non-contact time
- Includes collaboration and communication between teacher and administrator.

New teachers are suggested to spend 10 hours a week planning. Their duties include:

- Writing tasks
- Creating prompts
- Gathering materials

The Whitehall Mural, Hans Holbein, 1537

Group A

There is an inscription in the center of the painting. (Text is below.) Reduce this entire inscription down to a one-sentence thesis statement and report it back to the rest of the group.

Group B

The painter represents Henry VIII in a way that is crafted to send messages about Henry to an observer—messages about Henry's attributes and his status. Study the composition and list specific elements that suggest something about Henry. For each element you list, tell what you think it suggests about Henry.

Group C: The moment captured in this portrait could never have occurred in actuality. (Explanation below.) Why are these four individuals depicted here together, when in history they never would have posed together like this?

Tip: Pictured with Henry are his parents, father Henry VII and mother Elizabeth of York. Below him and to the right is Jane Seymour, Henry's third wife. *The death of Henry VII preceded his son's marriage to Jane Seymour by two wives.* On 24 October 1537, Jane Seymour gave birth to Henry VIII's first and only son, Edward. Notice that the date of the painting is visible in the small blue field to the right of Elizabeth's head: 1537.



- Grading students' works and projects
- Meetings and conferences

Planning happens in three scales

- Quarterly
- Weekly
- Daily

Scales of planning

- Planning basically occurs during year breaks i.e Summer or Christmas, where teacher maps out the incoming school semester/year that is coming ahead.
- After planning process, teachers must submit their package to administrators for review. Admins will hold teachers accountable for their planning efficiency, i.e by setting deadlines to complete plan. This report system creates space for discussion on whether to adjust work, and how.

Quarterly planning formula:

- Look at the course material and then check a calendar.
- Schlect would go on Word and create a list for each week. A 16 week semester will have 8 sections to move through, so he'll need to plans out when to reach certain benchmarks, such as which week to have an exam, based off material density.

Weekly planning formula:

- Micro-scale version of quarterly planning. Starting from the middle of the semester, teacher evaluates class progress weekly, checking whether they are ahead or behind their benchmarks, changing their curricular strategy accordingly, etc.
- Examples of change: Provide more assignments, prioritize certain reading sources over others while still recommending them on the side, pay more attention to a certain concept, etc.
- Teachers should plan lessons ahead by a week and keep administrator updated on their organization skills.

Daily planning formula:

- More attention to first and last five minutes of a class.

Understanding objectives

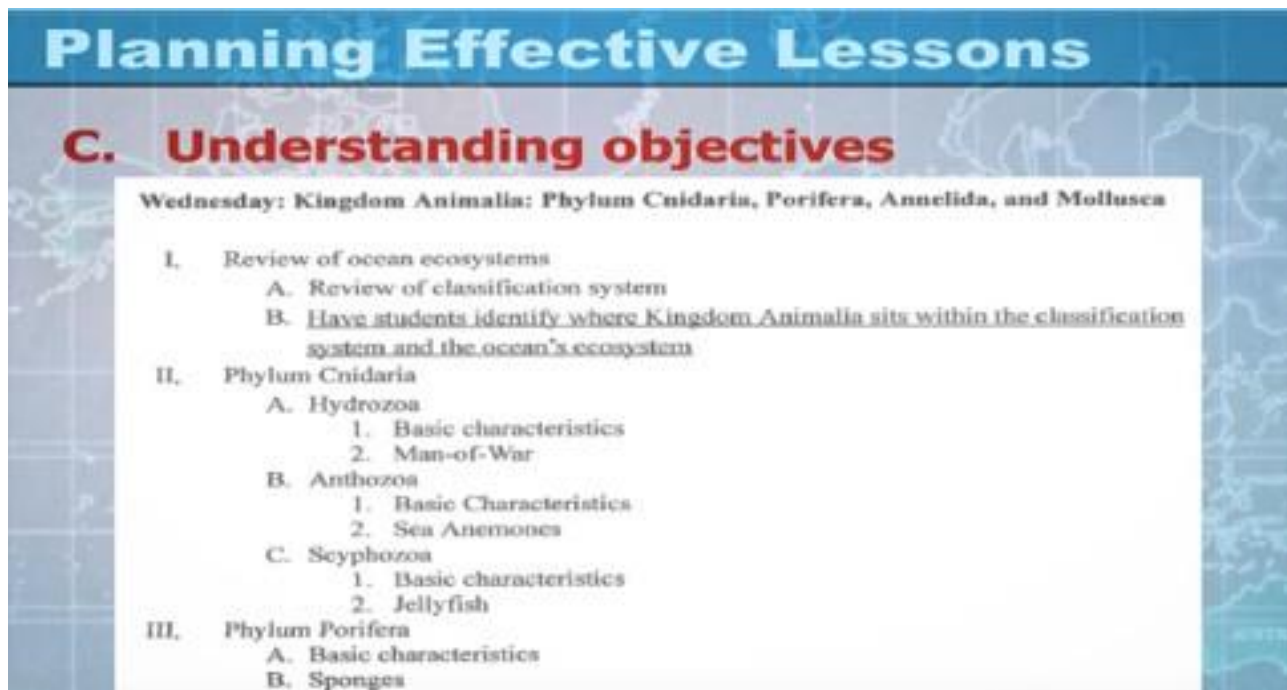
- Teachers should question what their objectives are, but they must always orient them around student performance. **Key question: What to get the students to achieve by the end of a class/semester?**
- Teachers should plan to equip students with skills and habits through frequent practice of those skills.



Actions that students should be capable of

- Define
- Discuss
- Refute
- Interrogate sources
- Reflect
- Describe
- Calculate
- Contrast

Example of Schlect reviewing a lesson plan: Class was Marine Biology



- The outline illustrated the teacher's activity and material to cover, Schlect had no idea what the students were going to do. Lesson was weak because of lack of planning.

Signs of poor planning

- End of year rush through material (indicates failure of quarterly or weekly planning)
- End of year rush through assignment pile (teacher gives students more assignments to boost their grade)
- End of class interrupted by the bell (last 5 mins are crucial because it wraps up the lesson, the bell could cut off the momentum of the lesson before it sets in)



Teacher needs to plan the last 5 mins so he/she will know when and how to direct the class momentum to a review phase. Could also utilize the results gathered from the last 5 mins to structure the next class' first 5 mins

- **Teacher is doing all the work; students are passive. This means teacher is not intentional or proactive or tactical about objectives - getting students to act. *refer to example of Schlect reviewing a class* Students' performance indicate how much they've gleaned from the lesson.**