

# Weekly Lesson Plan Focus Topics

Updated 10/2013

The Weekly Lesson Plan Focus Topics have five goals:

- 1) To strengthen the effectiveness of written plans
- 2) To encourage interns to use deeper thought processes when planning
- 3) To emphasize the importance of all the components of an effective plan and how to implement effectively
- 4) To create a learning-focused environment for all students through effective planning
- 5) To emphasize the importance of meeting the needs of all students

<b>FIRST PLACEMENT</b>	
<b>Plans for:</b>	<b>Focus Topics/Discussion</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Placement Week 2</b>	<p><b>Classroom Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is intern aware of management issues within class?</li> <li>• What is the intern’s plan to address issues that may occur?</li> <li>• What strategies does the intern have in mind to try? If one doesn’t work, then what?</li> <li>• Rewards? Consequences?</li> </ul> <p><u>Discussion with intern:</u>  <i>How are classroom management issues directly related to planning? What types of management issues are present in class? What part does consistency play in classroom management? What is important to remember about our own demeanor when handling discipline issues? What organizational procedures does the intern plan to implement?</i></p>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Placement Week 3</b>	<p><b>Objectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• measureable and stated behaviorally</li> <li>• based on state standards/Common Core</li> <li>• grade-level appropriate</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is there an assessment for each objective?</li> <li>• Do assessments accurately assess objectives?</li> <li>• If assessment method requires a checklist, is it included with plans?</li> </ul> <p><u>Discussion with intern:</u>  <i>Are assessment methods the most effective way to measure mastery of objectives? Are pre-tests used? Why or Why not? Why is it important to put much thought into methods of assessments?</i></p>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Placement Week 4</b>	<p><b>Procedures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• introduction includes a “hook” to get students interested in subject/topic of the lesson</li> <li>• innovative and engaging</li> <li>• sequential/easy to follow</li> <li>• detailed and thorough – NOT a bulleted list</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>list of higher level questions included</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion with intern:</b> <i>Are procedures focused on mastery of objectives? Will the introduction leave students wanting to know more?</i></p>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Placement Week 5</b>	<p><b>Content</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>thorough understanding of content</li> <li>more content/less fluff</li> <li>challenges students through knowledge of content</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion with intern:</b> <i>Is it obvious that intern is completely comfortable with all content? Is intern able to explain content in a meaningful and relevant way?</i></p>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Placement Week 6</b>	<p><b>Teaching Strategies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>plans meaningful and engaging avenues to promote mastery of objectives</li> <li>uses projects, cooperative grouping, discussions, etc. – does not over-use one strategy</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion with intern:</b> <i>Why did intern choose the strategies included in plan? How will intern group students? What is intern’s thought process for grouping students?</i></p>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Placement Week 7</b>	<p><b>Differentiated Instruction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do plans include differentiated instruction for each lesson?</li> <li>Do differentiated plans meet the needs of the students?</li> <li>Do differentiated plans include visual and hands-on activities?</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion with intern:</b> <i>What is the point of differentiated instruction? Why are visuals and hands-on activities used for these students? How can intern improve in planning differentiated instruction? How does including visuals in lesson help all students, especially those that struggle?</i></p>
<b>SECOND PLACEMENT</b>	
<b>Plans for:</b>	<b>Focus Topics/Discussion</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Placement Week 2</b>	<p><b>Communicating Instructions Effectively</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are all instructions given prior to beginning activities/tasks?</li> <li>Are instructions written down? Verbal? Or both?</li> <li>Does intern try to think of questions/problems students may have and use that knowledge when developing instructions?</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion with intern:</b> <i>How has intern improved over time with communicating effective instructions? Why is it important to give all instructions prior to activity/task?</i></p>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Placement Week 3</b>	<p><b>Enhancing Lessons with Visuals and Technology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do plans include several visuals – pictures, videos, etc. to make lessons more interesting and engaging?</li> <li>What types of visuals and technology are present in lessons?</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion with intern:</b> <i>What is the importance/purpose of visuals? How do visuals help students in relation to content?</i></p>

<p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Placement Week 4</b></p>	<p><b>Effective High Level Questioning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is intern consistently including higher level questions in lessons?</li> <li>• Is intern extending learning through questioning?</li> <li>• Is intern requiring students to justify answers to questions?</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion with intern:</b> <i>Why is it important to plan questioning prior to lesson? How is intern connecting lessons through questioning? How is intern using higher level questioning to benefit all students – gifted and remedial?</i></p>
<p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Placement Week 5</b></p>	<p><b>Utilizing Student Responses/Recognizing Teachable Moments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do interns plan to use student responses to improve or enhance lesson? When? How?</li> <li>• If student responses show confusion of content, what then?</li> <li>• Has intern caught on to the meaning of “teachable moments”? Examples?</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion with intern:</b> <i>How does utilizing student responses during lessons help strengthen a teacher/student relationship? What important cues should teachers look for when listening to student responses? What are the benefits of adjusting lesson to take advantage of teachable moments?</i></p>
<p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Placement Week 6</b></p>	<p><b>Overall Planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What areas of planning are most difficult? Why?</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion with intern:</b> <i>Has this Weekly Plan Focus Guide been helpful to intern? How? How has it helped with planning weekly lessons? What adjustments could be made to make it more effective? Has this guide helped prepare the intern to begin his/her teaching career?</i></p>