

Tips for Writing Objectives

What are instructional objectives?

- Instructional objectives are **specific, measurable, short-term, observable student behaviors**.
- An objective is a description of a performance you want learners to be able to exhibit before you consider them competent. (Note from: <http://www.uams.edu/oed/teaching/objectives.htm>)
- An objective describes an intended result of instruction, rather than the process of instruction itself.

Why have objectives?

- ◆ To provide direction to instruction.
- ◆ To provide guidelines for assessment.
- ◆ To convey instructional intent to others.

Types of objectives

- **Cognitive**: understandings, awarenesses, insights (e.g., "List and explain..."). This includes information recall, conceptual understanding, and problem-solving.
- **Psychomotor**: special skills (e.g., "dissect a frog so that the following organs are clearly displayed..."; "take a replicable blood pressure reading by appropriately using a sphygmomanometer").
- **Affective**: attitudes, appreciations, relationships.

Tips for writing objectives

- **How specific and detailed should objectives be?** It depends on what they are used for! Objectives for sequencing a unit plan will be more general than for specifying a lesson plan.
- Don't make writing objectives tedious, trivial, time-consuming, or mechanical. Keep them simple, unambiguous, and clearly focused as a guide to learning.
- The purpose of objectives is not to restrict spontaneity or constrain the vision of education in the discipline; but to ensure that learning is focused clearly enough that both students and teacher know what is going on.
- Express them in terms of student performance, behavior, and achievement, not teacher activity.
- Three components of an instructional objective: 1. Identify the type of activity in which competence is required (e.g., "Dissect...").
2. Specify the criteria or standards by which competence in the activity will be assessed (e.g., "a frog so that the following organs are clearly displayed...").
3. List any conditions or circumstances required for students to meet the objective (e.g., "...given two class periods working with the materials at your lab station")

In writing objectives, answer the question: *"What should the participants be able to do*
a.Objectives must be clear and attainable.

b.Focus on knowledge/skill acquisition or reinforcement.

c.A recommended wording format is: "At the completion of this activity, participants should be able to..."This phrase is followed by a specific performance verb and the desired learning outcome.**Words or phrases such as ***know, think, appreciate, learn, comprehend, remember, perceive, understand, be***

aware of, be familiar with, have knowledge of, grasp the significance, are **NOT** measurable and should be avoided.

Associated action verbs	Writing Objectives for Lesson Plans Using Bloom's Taxonomy and Associated Action or Performance Verbs Learning level
define, describe, state, list, name, write, recall, recognize, label, underline, select, reproduce, outline, match	Knowledge
identify, justify, select, indicate, illustrate, represent, name, formulate, explain, judge, contrast, classify	Comprehension
predict, select, assess, explain, choose, find, show, demonstrate, construct, compute, use, perform	Application
analyze, identify, conclude, differentiate, select, separate, compare, contrast, justify, resolve, break down, criticize	Analysis
combine, restate, summarize, precise, argue, discuss, organize, derive, select, relate, generalize, conclude	Synthesis
judge, evaluate, determine, recognize, support, defend, attack, criticize, identify, avoid, select, choose	Evaluation