

Education Professions Supplemental Curriculum Lesson Plan

Lesson Planning

Title of Lesson: Traditional vs. Constructivist Lesson Planning

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Objective: Students will analyze the differences between Traditional and Constructivist Lesson Plans and will modify a traditional lesson plan to a constructivist lesson plan.

Essential Question: What are the differences between Traditional and Constructivist Lesson Plans?

Activities:

While many educators are emphasizing a constructivist style of lesson planning, it is important to understand the differences between traditional and constructivist classrooms. Ask the students to bring in a variety of lesson plans. (These lesson plans can be ones that the students have written, lessons found on the Internet, or lessons from the SAY, MAY, FLAY section of the Education Professions curriculum binder). Using the descriptors of Traditional versus Constructivist Classrooms, have the students work in small groups to categorize the lessons. As a class, discuss the findings of the groups. Review the characteristics of each category and discuss the potential benefits and drawbacks of each. Have the students discuss which grade levels and subjects might be most conducive to each category. Very generally, here is an overview about the two categories:

Traditional

- Strict adherence to fixed curriculum
- Heavy use of textbooks and workbooks
- Teachers deliver information to students
- Teachers seek correct answers
- Assessment is separate from teaching
- Students work primarily alone

Constructivist

- Student questions are valued
- Use of manipulative materials
- Students viewed as independent thinkers
- Teachers interact
- Students' point of view sought
- Assessment interwoven with teaching
- Student inquiry encouraged
- Teachers model and coach
- Focus on real-world problems

- Stress on conceptual interrelatedness
- Encourages authentic tasks
- Encourages problem-solving
- Encourages collaborative learning

Materials:

Sample lesson plans, chart of differences between Traditional and Constructivist Classrooms

There is a variety of information on the Internet discussing this topic. A couple of helpful sites might include:

<http://asimov.coehs.uwosh.edu/~cramer/casestudy1/Concepts/Constructivist.html>

<http://www.auroraschool.org/constructivistclassroom.html>

Assessment:

Students will modify a traditional lesson so that it is constructivist lesson. Students will deliver the revised lesson to either a small group of fellow Ed Professions students or to the students at their field experience site. Students will reflect on the differences between designing and delivering a traditional versus a constructivist lesson and make predictions about what kind of lessons they will design and deliver for their future classes.

Bonus: Students are encouraged to post their newly revised lessons to the FEA website to share with fellow FEA students.

Time: 90 + minutes

Standard(s):**12.0 CREATE A LESSON PLAN AND RELATED ACTIVITIES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF LEARNERS**

12.1 Develop objectives that are aligned with state and district standards

12.2 Integrate the components of a lesson plan with activities and instructional materials

12.3 Implement a lesson and a planned learning activity

12.4 Conduct a reflective evaluation of the implemented lesson plan