



Module 4: Beyond the Pendulum Swing

Chapter 8

Overview

Teachers desire to create meaningful educational experiences. The 5 approaches to lesson planning provide a foundation for integrating the multiple approaches into a single lesson or unit. Unlike the numerous trends and pendulum swings in education that champion a one-best-method, the various approaches to lesson planning are recognized as having their own value in different times and places.

Key Terms

Unit Planning Lesson plans organized over a longer period of time

Understanding by Design Working through the planning process from the bigger picture down to the detailed daily lesson plan

1. Identify the content to be taught, which may be based upon district guides, department agreements, or other external sources like standards and textbooks. Determine the length of time you have available for the unit within your yearly scope.
2. Articulate overarching learning aims, big ideas, experiences, and outcomes for your students.
3. Design formative and summative assessments, whether traditional or innovative. Ensure the assessments address your learning aims and provide many opportunities and formats for students to demonstrate learning.
4. Create a calendar and sequence the learning logically—by skills and experiences that build upon each other toward the big ideas, outcomes, and learning aims you have identified.
5. Think about experiences you can and want to provide for students. Who are your students? How can you engage them in the inclusive learning environment?
6. Match ideas and skills to various lesson plan approaches and consider blending some together if desired. See if you can include at least two or three approaches in each unit.
7. Sketch out each lesson plan and then fill in the details as you are ready. You might want to create a binder, folder, or box for your unit plans.

Activities

Beginning

Understand steps of unit planning

Middle

Explore how the individual approaches complement each other to create a cohesive unit

End

Consider the unit plan through the characteristics of perceptive teaching

To know and understand...

- How does combining the lesson plans within unit planning aid in providing a remarkable educational experience for students?