



THE ROLE OF PRE-INSTRUCTIONAL PLANNING IN ENHANCING PEDAGOGICAL EFFECTIVENESS.

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Abstract: *The article examines the role of pre-instructional planning in strengthening pedagogical effectiveness. The study highlights pre-instructional planning as a key element of the pedagogical cycle that enhances both teaching quality and learning outcomes.*

Key words: *unique, engage, activate, consideration, revision, extension, framework, consider, preparation*

Every lesson is unique and is made up of different stages. Lessons can focus on grammar, vocabulary, reading or writing. They may contain listening and speaking activities and concentrate on introducing new language items or on revision. The actual content of any lesson will depend on what the teacher aims to achieve during the lesson, the students and the teaching situation. However, there are some ideas that can be considered for every lesson.

As teachers, it is important then to provide students with lessons that are not only well-structured but which are also interesting and enjoyable. Careful thought and preparation will help to achieve this.

When thinking about an English lesson it is useful to keep the following three elements in mind:

Engage Study Activate

These three elements, E. S. A. should be present in every teaching sequence, whatever your teaching point. But what do we mean by E. S. A.?

E is for Engage

It is important to engage the students. This means getting the students interested in the subject, in the class and in the language point and hopefully enjoying what they are doing. But why is this important? After all, you may feel that students come to school to learn, not to be entertained!

If students are engaged, if they're genuinely interested and involved in what's going on, the chances are that they're going to learn an awful lot better because they're not just doing what they have to do because they're in school, they're also actively involved in what's going on. (Jeremy Harmer, author of *The Practice of English Language Teaching - Lesson Plan, Programme 2*)[1].



Engaging students is important for the learning process. Engaged students learn better and are likely to cause fewer discipline problems.

S is for Study

In any lesson students usually need something to study. In an English teaching lesson there needs to be some language focus for the class. Students need to be introduced systematically to the way that English is put together. The Study element of a lesson could be a focus on any aspect of the language, such as grammar or vocabulary and pronunciation. A Study stage does not have to be new language input. It could also cover revision and extension of previously taught material.

A is for Activate

Simply telling students about the language is not usually enough to help them to learn it. In order for students to be able to develop their use of English, they need to be given the chance to produce it. In an Activate stage the students are given tasks, normally writing and or speaking activities which require students to use not only the language they are studying that day, but also other language that they have learnt.

Here are some reasons why it's important to let students have this kind of practice:

- It gives students the chance to rehearse English, as if they were doing it in the real world but in the safe environment of the classroom.
- Some theories of language learning suggest that by giving students this kind of practice, it helps them to 'switch' language they have been studying, into language which they can use instinctively without having to think about it.
- These kind of activities are often fun for the students. As we have mentioned before, providing an enjoyable classroom experience for students helps the learning process.
- This kind of activity, because it does not restrict the students to using only a particular area of language, is an effective way for both students and the teacher to assess how well the class is progressing.
- Providing suitable tasks which the students can achieve using lots of different language has a positive motivational effect on students. Motivated students tend to learn better.

Engage, Study and Activate - three important considerations for any lesson. Every activity, every exercise, every part of a lesson should fit into one of these categories. Although ESA is a guide to what should go into a lesson, it is not necessarily a guide as to what order activities should come in a lesson. For example, it is possible to have an Activate stage before a Study stage. In this order the teacher can monitor the activity to find out what it is that the



students need to know. In other words, the Activate stage helps the teacher to decide the content of the Study stage.

What is a lesson plan?

A lesson plan is a framework for a lesson. If you imagine that a lesson is like a journey, then the lesson plan is the map. It shows where you start, where you finish and the route to take to get there. Lesson plans are the product of teachers' thoughts about their classes; what they hope to achieve and how they hope to achieve it. They are usually, though not always, in written form.

There are as many different kinds of plan as there are teachers. Trainee teachers often have to produce very detailed written plans, with descriptions not only of each activity but also listing the exact questions and instructions they will give the class as well as the timings for every activity. In a full-time teaching situation, however, it is impractical to expect teachers to plan with this level of detail each lesson they teach.

Without some kind of planning, a lesson could be just as chaotic and could leave the students with no clear idea of what they were doing or why. This kind of uncertainty is not good for effective learning or class discipline.

One of the most important reasons to plan is that the teacher needs to identify his or her aims for the lesson. Teachers need to know what it is they hope to achieve in the class, what it is they want the students to be able to do at the end of the lesson that they couldn't do before.

Here are some more reasons why it is essential to plan:

- Planning is a sign of professionalism. Students expect teachers to be professional. If you are prepared, the students can tell. They also know if you are not prepared. Planning is a way to help gain the respect of your students.
- By planning you are considering your teaching situation and your particular students. However good your teaching material or course book may be, it is unlikely that it was prepared for your particular students.
- Planning gives the teacher a chance to predict possible problems in the class and think about ways to deal with them. By thoroughly researching the target language and being prepared for difficult questions, for example, the teacher can feel confident in the classroom [2].

Similarly, teachers need to be aware of what is happening in and around the class. Students may raise interesting points and discussions could provide unexpected opportunities for language work and practice. The teacher needs to be flexible enough to be able to leave the plan if such opportunities arise.



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