

Writing Tiered Lesson/Unit Plans

Writing tiered lessons and units can be challenging. Below are some steps to guide your planning.

1. Establish which standards, objectives, knowledge, or skills all students need to know at the end of the lesson or unit.
2. Think about activities you, and/or others, have done with students in the past to reach these standards or objectives. Make a list.
3. Add more activities to your list as you brainstorm with other teachers or get ideas from other resources.
4. Decide which of these are appropriate learning activities for all students. These will become your whole class activities.
5. Some of the activities on your list will most likely be easier than others. Put an indication of the level or tier you think each activity might be. Consider your class and decide on how many levels you need to have. You usually will have 2-3 levels, but occasionally you may have 4 levels.
6. Think about ways to expand or extend the easier activities so they will be challenging for higher ability students and ways to simplify the more difficult activities so that your struggling students can be successful.
7. Look carefully at your list of activities. Many times you will have more activities than your students could possibly complete given the amount of time you have for the lesson or unit. Decide which activities are essential and which could be eliminated if necessary. You may want to save a few of the activities to use with students who need even more of an individualized plan, or who need additional options after reteaching to demonstrate mastery.
8. Check again to make sure all activities will lead to student learning and mastering the standards and objectives.
9. Make certain that activities at all levels are engaging and interesting. Nothing discourages achievement faster than students thinking that the other group is the one with the fun, interesting, or enjoyable activity while the learning activity they have been assigned is not.
10. Use the tiered lesson/unit planning template and samples to help organize your ideas.
11. Plan daily lessons based on your Tiered Lesson or Unit plan.
12. As you would with any lesson or unit, gather supplies and resources needed for activities and assessments.
13. Design pre- and post-assessments.

Notes: