

Writing Effective Instructional Objectives

An objective is a description of a performance a learner is expected to exhibit in order to determine acquisition of his/her learning. Meaningful objectives are stated precisely to convey to its readers the intended instructional outcome, excluding possible meanings other than intent. Objectives are open to multiple interpretations when imprecise verbs like the following are used: know, understand, appreciate, or enjoy. Therefore, intended performances in objectives should be open to fewer interpretations. Verbs that should be used must be both measurable and observable.

Course Objective

Upon completion of the Environmental Health Course, the learner will be able to categorize the health concepts relevant to the physical, social and emotional needs of children and adolescents and construct a training program for both groups. Competency will be based upon successful completion of all assignments and by scoring at least 70% on the examinations.

Specific or enabling objectives

Define environmental health

Identify environmental health concepts relevant to physical needs of children

Match environmental health concepts to children's and adolescents' social needs

Describe environmental health concepts to children's and adolescents' emotional needs

Compare and contrast needs across children and adolescent lines

Design age-appropriate environmental health curricula

Create age-appropriate skill-building strategies to foster environmental health

Design an age-appropriate class session for both children and adolescent classes

Deliver an age-appropriate class session to both children and adolescent classes

Reflect upon each class's successes/limitations

The following listings provide verbs that are measurable and also are categorized based on a hierarchy of learning moving from simple (knowledge) to complex (synthesis and evaluation).

Knowledge	Comprehension	Application	Analysis	Synthesis	Evaluation
Arrange	Classify	Apply	Analyze	Arrange	Appraise
Define	Describe	Calculate	Appraise	Assemble	Assess
Duplicate	Discuss	Choose	Categorize	Compose	Choose
Label	Explain	Demonstrate	compare	construct	Compare
List	Express	Dramatize	Contrast	Create	Contract
Memorize	Identify	Employ	Criticize	Design	Diagnose
Name	Indicate	Illustrate	Diagram	Formulate	Estimate
Order	Locate	Interpret	Determine	Manage	Evaluate
Recognize	Paraphrase	Operate	Differentiate	Organize	Judge
Recall	Report	Practice	Discriminate	Plan	Predict
Relate	Restate	Sketch	Examine	Prepare	Rate
Repeat	Translate	Solve	Test	Propose	Score (Bott)

The listings above are only representative and should not be considered complete. Nor should they imply that all verbs are consistently used in the levels indicated. The listings simply offer a variety of verbs that can be used and illustrate that discrimination between learning levels is possible by carefully selecting the performance verb.