Lesson Design for Professional School Counselors: Make Your Lessons EPIC!

Dawn Mann, Professional School Counselor, Cobb County Public Schools
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Break-Out Session Plan:

• *Define & explore* the elements of effective lesson design
• *Demonstrate* effective delivery of the school counseling curriculum
• *Make use of* the principles of effective lesson design by *polishing* a sample counseling core curriculum lesson
• *Brainstorm* ideas for expanding your reach and gaining access to students in the classroom
But First, Let’s Move!

The Mirror Effect
How are your students different as a result of your work as a school counselor?
“We must learn to evaluate our work critically. Teaching does not occur in the absence of learning. Therefore, regardless of how well you perform or how hard you work, the harsh reality is this: if your students haven’t learned it, then you haven’t taught it. It’s just that simple.”

Dr. Shirley Haley-James, Professor of English, Georgia State University (Ret.)
Former President, National Council for Teachers of English
Step One
Define and explore the elements of effective lesson design
Effective Communicators Understand & Use 3 Important Learning Tools:

1. __________________________________________

2. __________________________________________

3. __________________________________________
Didn’t I tell you this already?
The Internal Journey of the Learner

1. __________ (Desire) I have a need that must be resolved.
2. __________ (Resist) I don’t like feeling out-of-place or uncomfortable; this is unfamiliar.
3. __________ (Connect) Wait, something is familiar here.
4. __________ (Ignite) My brain is clicking & my feelings are stirring.
5. __________ (Process) I need to interact & work this out.
6. __________ (Conclude) My brain filters & finds new ideas.
7. __________ (Act) Now, I must do something about this.
Steps to the Ultimate Lesson

1. Engage the learner.
2. Create a dilemma or problem to be solved.
3. Introduce the central image.
4. Invite students to participate in the conversation — do something!
5. Relate the topic back to students.
6. Engage the heart to make the image stick.
Teach Something.
Do Something.

It’s that simple.
Your Lessons Must be EPIC:

E  Experiential

P  Participatory

I  Image Rich

C  Connected
Picture Perfect: Why Teaching with Images is So Effective

• Pictures Stick: We remember pictures long after words have left us.

• Learners Visualize: The majority of people are visual learners

• Images Engage Our Emotions: Brains emote before they act; therefore, images grip new portions of our minds and make us want to express and respond.

• Pictures Tell Stories: Images have the ability to spark a new idea or thought each and every time you look at it.
Phase Two

*Demonstrate* effective delivery of the school counseling curriculum
As You Participate in the Demonstrations, Make Note of the Following Elements:

- What is the central image driving the lesson or activity?
- What is the simple, declarative message associated with the lesson?
- How does the lesson engage the learner, evoke emotion, or create a dilemma/conflict that must be resolved?
- How does each lesson move back and forth between teaching a concept and then doing something with that concept?
## Lesson Analysis Chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element</th>
<th>Lesson Idea:</th>
<th>Lesson Idea:</th>
<th>Lesson Idea:</th>
<th>Lesson Idea:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central Image</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simple, Declarative Statement or Marketing Message</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle for Engaging the Learner</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teach Something, Do Something</td>
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</table>
Grade point average (GPA) is calculated by adding the total number of quality points earned divided by the total number of credit hours attempted. To calculate your **CORE (HOPE) GPA**, identify the subjects that are part of the CORE Curriculum: English, Math, Social Studies, Science and Modern/Romance.

For example: Each class on the block schedule = 1 credit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100-90</td>
<td>A = 4 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>89-80</td>
<td>B = 3 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79-74</td>
<td>C = 2 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73-70</td>
<td>D = 1 point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69-0</td>
<td>F = 0 points</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Example:**

- English: 85 = 3
- Math: 78 = 2
- Spanish: 84 = 3
- PE: 93 = 4

\[
12/4 = 3.0
\]

**GPA**

To calculate your **Cumulative GPA**: total the following for every course taken.

- Total # of A's \( \frac{4}{3} \times 4 = \frac{16}{3} \)
- Total # of B's \( \frac{3}{3} \times 3 = 3 \)
- Total # of C's \( \frac{2}{2} \times 2 = 2 \)
- Total # of D's \( \frac{1}{1} \times 1 = 1 \)
- Total # of F's \( \frac{0}{7} \times 0 = 0 \)

Total # classes 25 Total # points 357

Divide # of points/# of classes = \( \frac{25}{7} \) My GPA
The Lesson

1. Activator: 3-minute memory walk
2. Present the Image: Feeling continuum
3. Discussion:
   – Reasons a brain moves on the continuum
   – Coping strategies
4. Demonstration: Paper ball game
5. Contrast Depression and “Depressed”
6. Discussion: Identify thinking patterns

Phase Three

Make use of the principles of effective lesson design by polishing a sample counseling core curriculum lesson.
Practice: Reframe the Lesson

**Earnings and unemployment rates by educational attainment**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral degree</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>1,591</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional degree</td>
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<td>1,639</td>
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<tr>
<td>Master’s degree</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s degree</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate’s degree</td>
<td>4.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Some college, no degree</td>
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<tr>
<td>High school diploma</td>
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<td>668</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than a high school diploma</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>488</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Tips for Expanding Your Reach:

• Provide value to the teacher
• Seek partnerships
• Drop the G-Word – completely!
• Learn to say, “Core Classroom Lessons”
• Leverage the teachers’ needs to address your own — you’re not an add-on service
• Identify those 24/7 teachable moments
• Remain true to your brand
• Assert yourself:

http://potential2success.com/assertingyourselfeffectively.html
Q & A

What can we do to support you?
Sources Used in This Presentation:


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