

Understanding Learning Targets

A Learning Target Contains All of the Following Characteristics:

- It is derived from a grade-level standard.
- It describes what you want students to learn today by describing the kind of learning you want the students to do.
- The learning is attainable in one day/lesson.
- It is written in language students understand.
- Success criteria are clear so that students know if they are making progress toward or have met the learning target.

General Overview

What is a Learning Target?

A learning target is what you want the students to learn TODAY. It is derived from a grade level standard, not from the text or other published materials, unless those materials are 100% aligned with the state or Common Core State Standards. A learning target is clear to students and attainable in one day/lesson. It describes the kind of learning you want the students to do.

What are Success Criteria?

Success criteria allow students to know if they are making progress towards or have met the learning target. The success criteria are connected to the progression of learning.

Guiding questions to help you identify the learning target:

1. As the result of this lesson today, what do I want the students to know and be able to do?
2. Why is it important that they achieve this new learning? What will they be able to do as a result of having acquired this learning?
3. Therefore, the most important thing for them to carry away from engaging in this learning experience today is ... ?

The answer to question 3 is the learning target.