LEARNING TARGETS

Professional Learning Processing Guide

This processing guide is designed to provide teachers with a self-moderated professional learning experience through deepening their understanding of Learning Targets.

Effective language learning experiences are facilitated by the use of learning targets to motivate students and engage with them as partners in the learning process. The Learning Experience domain of the Teacher Effectiveness for Language Learning Framework identifies the characteristics and behaviors exhibited by a model world language teacher and supports the need for Learning Targets.

This Professional Learning Processing Guide will take you on a growth path that will lead to a better understanding and a plan for implementation of effective strategies for Developing Learning Targets. You will be interacting with the following resources designed to support your professional learning. As you progress through this guide, you will explore your initial understanding of the topic, dig a little deeper into the topic, explore and try a new strategy or two, and see what it could look like in a classroom.

Overview Document
This overview document written by world language expert, Greg Duncan, provides an introduction to learning targets and their role in the language classroom today.

Video Vignette
This overview video features classroom vignettes, as well as interviews with teachers and students reflecting on the impact of performance assessments.

Teacher Presentation
This video presentation developed by a practicing Russian teacher provides an explanation of learning targets as well as practical tips from the classroom.

At-a-Glance Infographic
This visual representation provides an overview to learning targets highlighting important features of the concept, sample strategies, helpful tips and more.

Additional Resources
This link collection includes scholarly readings, journal publication, videos and other online resources selected to support additional professional learning on the topic.

As you engage with the resource and complete the posed questions, think deeply about your current practices, use evidence to support your opinions, and engage critical friends who can give you meaningful feedback and expand the discussion.
Getting Familiar

Consider what you already know about Developing Learning Targets and think about what role learning targets play in your current practice. Then review the at-a-glance infographic and answer the questions below.

What do you know already about Learning Targets?

What more do you want to learn about Learning Targets?

Explore More

Read through the overview document and view the video vignette to learn more about Developing Learning Targets. Then reflect on your learning by answering the questions below.

List some of the larger lessons or principles you learned both from what you read and viewed.
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HOW DO YOU FEEL?

What is your emotional response to the new learning?

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I THOUGHT SO!

What understandings did you have validated as a result of your reading?

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AH-HA!

What surprised you in your reading/viewing or what “ah-ha” moments did you have?

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www.TELLproject.org/STARTALK

Funding for this product was provided by the United States government through STARTALK, a program of the National Foreign Language Center at the University of Maryland.
Digging Deeper

Now that you have gotten an overview on the topic and explored the basics about Developing Learning Targets, let’s learn more specifics about the process and how it can enhance student performance. While interacting with the teacher presentation video, consider these questions and then take a moment to reflect on your learning.

Let’s Get Specific

Which specific strategies mentioned in the teacher presentation caught your attention? Why?

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What If?

Consider how you might apply what you’ve learned in your own teaching situation.

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Commitment Time

Consider what actions you'll take next as a result of your learning and reflection. Identify at least one next step you will take in your teaching situation. Consider how you will know that you have been successful in your implementation of a new idea.

How do you want to apply your learning going forward?
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Extend Learning

If you still have questions about Developing Learning Targets or want additional information explore the resources listed below. These professional learning resources include scholarly readings, journal publications, videos and other online resources that will support your learning.

Teaching foreign languages K-12: Assessment strategies.
Annenberg Foundation.

NCSSFL-ACTFL Can-Do Statements
American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL).

The keys to planning for learning: Effective curriculum, unit, and lesson design
American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). Donna Clementi & Laura Terrill.
ISBN: 0989653220