EDU 320 – Synthesis Paper

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#### EDU 320 – Synthesis Paper

Throughout this summer semester, the importance of being an effective teacher through scaffolding information and curriculum has been a reoccurring theme. There are countless resources that can help in this process of becoming an effective teacher. There is no denying how connected curriculum is to helping students become successful. Not only does it take understanding each student but varying instruction to meet the needs of every student. This can be done through using direct and indirect instruction, meeting goals, stands, and objectives through effective unit and lesson planning, implementing technology, using questioning strategies, and always assessing students. The role of an educator is extremely important and this just covers how to effectively teach curriculum instruction and assessment.

## **The Effective Teacher**

## Description

Many factors go into what makes an effective teacher. These factors include a wide range of qualities like disciplining, classroom layout, knowledge, teaching abilities, knowing their students, scaffolding, etc. Throughout this class, it was seen that an effective teacher relies heavily on their interactions with students and the content taught throughout the schoolyear.

## Artifact

A really great way to ensure that there are student/teacher relationships forming is to be available to students. Sometimes the hardest students to reach are the ones that struggle trusting an adult. By adding drop off boxes where students can write their concerns, where they need help, what they need help with etc. the teacher can then respond to these notes efficiently. This will help students more discreetly ask for help (Appendix A). This will foster that personal connection between student and teacher.

## How it Will Be Used in Classroom

In order for these teachers to be effective, they need to help their student succeed (Wong 8). Teachers are made great by being effective listeners. If educators were hired as masters of understanding, rather than masters of content, the education system would be very different. Often, students need that personal connection more than the content. "The effective teacher is committed to regarding all students as able, valuable, responsible, and possessing untapped potential in all worthwhile areas of human endeavor" (Wong 59). If students feel valued, respected, and listened to in the classroom they are able to learn. Students will respond better to compassion and a trusted person than to someone who is intelligent but cold.

This can be done by incorporating student choice in the classroom and within assignments. Include students in decorating the classroom, sharing stories, writings, drawings out loud, talking about family traditions, holidays, etc. are all ways to ensure students feel heard, valued, and supported. Providing specific encouragement and kind words are small, but important ways to grow self-confidence, make students feel capable, and loved.

## **Understanding Your Students**

## Description

Getting to know students and being able to adjust teaching methods in order to help students become successful should be the first priority of every educator. This can be done a variety of ways. First impressions and persistence are key with many students. Students have to feel safe and know that their teacher really cares for them and wants them to succeed. It is important for the teacher to be aware of the multiple intelligences, learning styles, interests, skills, diversity, and content knowledge within the classroom. This can be monitored by daily feedback on homework assignments and performance assessments.

## Artifact

Within the first week of school it is important that the teacher introduces themself to the class, in depth. From there, a foundation of trust can be built. By handing out "Get to know you" sheets for students to fill out is a great way to learn more about each student (Appendix B). If the teacher remembers and uses the information on the sheet to their advantage, the students will feel seen, heard, and supported.

## How it Will Be Used in Classroom

Throughout the school year it is vital to maintain this relationship. For elementary teachers it is often easier to keep track of every student's behaviors, tendencies, preferences, strengths, weaknesses, etc. Teachers should create small profiles for each student using this information. Not only will this be beneficial for the teacher throughout the schoolyear, but also for the student, their parents, and their future teachers. This profile can be created by collecting assignments, the "get to know you" worksheet, artwork, journal entries, teacher observations, etc. From there, teachers must scaffold information to fit these students' needs so that learning and growth can pursue.

Differentiating instruction is absolutely vital. Teachers must be flexible and willing to adjust for their students. This can include grouping students, having a variety of learning centers that play to different learning styles, providing student choice, and scaffolding questions.

## Goals, Standards, and Objectives

## Description

It is important to note the differences between goals, standards, and objectives before they can be fully understood and applied in the classroom. Goals refer to the direction and general aim given or strived for. Standards stem from goals. Standards refer to what students should know, what must be accomplished in order to meet goals. Objectives refer to what the teacher expects the students to know, gain, and do at the end of instruction. Objectives follow a when, what, how line of questioning. "When," allows the teacher to create a timeline for when standards must be completed. "What," allows teachers to lay out exactly what the students need to know from the standard. "How," allows the teacher to create options for the students to be able to show their understanding of the standard.

## Artifact

To better grasp these concepts, I wrote these three terms in my own words while incorporating information from peers and Dr. Cain (Appendix C). I also took a standard and created objectives for the standard while using Bloom's Taxonomy.

## How it Will Be Used in Classroom

Goals, standards, and objectives will always be used within the classroom. When creating lesson plans, teachers must be striving for goals which can only be achieved by following standards and creating objectives. Lesson planning is how educators stay organized, effective, and help keep students on track. When a lesson is well thought out and planned ahead for, the day can run much more smoothly.

## **Unit and Lesson Planning**

## Description

Both unit and lesson planning pull from the experiences and learning needs of the students in order to create effective plans. Each school year, these unit and lesson plans will be altered, depending on the students. However, reaching/meeting specific standards rarely change. Teachers must modify teaching strategies depending on students' prior knowledge, attitudes, motivation levels, different levels of development, etc.

## Artifact

Unit and lesson planning will and should occur in every classroom. Lesson plans should be detailed, allow flexibility, and always be improved upon. The best way to improve unit and lesson planning is through practice (Appendix D).

#### How it Will Be Used in Classroom

Good unit and lesson planning play a huge role in creating an effective classroom and successful students. Lesson plans should flow together neatly and coherently. A string of lesson plans can create a unit plan that can be implemented into the classroom. When students follow a unit plan, there is direction, a guide, and less confusion. It is the teacher's job to ensure the students understand each lesson before moving on.

## **Technology Integration in Instruction**

## Description

Technology integration in the classroom can either enhance learning or become a distraction. It is important to avoid the latter. When technology is incorporated in the classroom effectively, students can improve communication skills, creativity,

interpretation/comprehensions, and learn to transform information into knowledge and skills.

## Artifact

For mathematics it is always easier to rely on the textbook or worksheets when practicing and learning new concepts. However, by showing a video and using math manipulatives, students can be fully immersed in their learning (Appendix E).

## How it Will Be Used in Classroom

Successful technological integration is when students play an active role in their learning and receive frequent personalized feedback from their teachers and, even sometimes, their peers. It also includes students critically analyzing and actively creating media messages to stimulate critical thinking and creativity skills. When technology is used correctly in the classroom, students can make connections from their learning inside the classroom to the world outside of school.

Technology can be incorporated in numerous ways. Allow students to create music, art, films, podcasts, etc. When students post online there is an authentic audience that is reacting, learning, and engaging to what they put out there. Incorporate videos, math manipulatives, Prezi, etc. to enhance learning in the classroom.

## **Questioning Strategies**

## Description

There are seven purposes of asking questions. These include (1) getting interest and attention of students, (2) diagnosing and checking, (3) recalling information, (4) management tactics, (5) encourage high-level thinking, (6) redirecting learning, and (7) allowing expression of affect. When asking students questions it is good to form questions at different levels of cognitive complexity.

## Artifact

The most efficient way to implement questioning strategies is through practice (Appendix F). Questions lead to deeper thinking and deeper understanding of concepts. Often, when questions are given frequently, students tend to remember and recall information with more ease.

## How it Will Be Used in Classroom

This can be used within the classroom on a daily basis. Asking a question to get the students' interest is a great way to start any lesson. Piquing interest within students gains their curiosity and heightens levels of motivation. When questions to diagnose and check progress, teachers are ensuring students are paying attention and are remembering the correct information. By constantly checking in on students, they are forced to think of the answer and that answer becomes more engrained in their minds. When asking questions to recall specific facts, it can

show students what is truly important. When questions need a specific answer, students can easily see the importance of that fact/specific piece of information. When questioning is used to manage the classroom, students are given extra reminders. This is another great way for teachers to point out what information is important. Encourage higher-level thinking by asking deeper questions that force students to dig deeper and push past their comfort zones. Questions can be used to help redirect learning. For example, switching or connecting one concept to another can be used through lines of questions. By questioning to allow expression of affect, students can ask final questions before the teacher moves on.

## **Teaching Strategies for Direct Instruction**

## Description

Direct instruction is classified as a type one learning outcome. Direct instruction includes facts, rules, and action sequences. It also fits into the knowledge, comprehension, and application levels from Bloom's Taxonomy. Direct instruction is more teacher-based, rather than student-based learning. Or is also known as, "Active teaching." This is done through presentations and recitation.

## Artifact

An effective way of direction instruction begins with an explanation, providing examples, practice, and providing feedback. This instruction should be created and prepared for beforehand (Appendix G).

## How it Will Be Used in Classroom

Direct instruction is frequently used in today's classrooms. Often times, it can be overused or used the wrong way. Although direct instruction allows for material to be covered much faster, there is often no real engagement with the students. In order to successfully implement direct instruction, it is important to present goals/main points, present all concepts in sequential order, be specific and concrete, and always check for understanding.

Direct instruction can be incorporated within the classroom through effective PowerPoints. This means having quality presentation skills, like having discussion, provide notes to students, maintain eye contact with the students, speak clearly, and it can be beneficial to record lectures that students can refer back to. PowerPoints should be visually pleasing, have large font, are simple, limited amount of text, easy to read, etc.

## **Teaching Strategies for Indirect Instruction**

## Description

Indirect instruction encourages students to explore their interests and improve students' thinking abilities. Indirect instruction targets the higher Bloom's Taxonomy levels, like synthesis and evaluation levels of the cognitive domain. Indirect instruction is more student focused, rather than teacher-based. This type of instruction can tie into direct instruction and is common for projects and inquiry-based learning.

## Artifact

An effective way to implement indirect instruction is by allowing students to be creative, allowing for flexibility, and encouraging responsibility. However, an outline, some direction, and goals should be set out beforehand (Appendix H).

## How it Will Be Used in Classroom

Indirect instruction can be incorporated in the classroom in numerous ways. Inquirybased is the most common and most natural. This process encourages curiosity. It begins with a problem, or "Essential Questions," then hypotheses form called "lines of inquiry," collect data. Brainstorm solutions, formulate questions, research/investigate, analyze and interpret the data to test the hypotheses, discuss findings, then reflect, draw conclusions, and present results. This can improve cooperative learning, allowing students to work together, simulations can be used to help students solve real life problems, etc. Having different zones within the classroom like a discovery zone, mathematics zone, reading zone, etc. can allow students to work individually and in small groups through indirect instruction. Project-based learning, while very similar to inquiry-based learning, is another great way to incorporate indirect instruction.

#### **Assessing Learners**

## Description

Assessing students is an essential part of measuring success within the classroom. There are four forms of assessment: pre-assessment, formative assessment, summative assessment, and performance assessment. Pre-assessment is a way to determine students' previous knowledge on a topic. Teachers often use this information to make adjustments to their instructions depending on student's current understanding and needs. This often helps teachers when grouping students, as well.

Formative assessment is tracking students' progress and understanding throughout a unit. This can be done through a number of ways. The goal is always to test students' knowledge and use that information to determine if concepts need to be retaught or reinforced before the summative assessment.

Summative assessments are used to evaluate students' learning and understanding, usually at the end of a unit. This type of assessment is done through testing and scores are recorded into permanent records. Performance assessments are relatively similar. Performance assessment is another form of testing that allows students to apply knowledge from class to complete a task.

## Artifact

Teachers can implement assessments easily throughout a regular classroom day. Often, pre-assessments are used before beginning a lesson, formative assessments are given at the end of a lesson, then performance and summative assessments are typically given at the end of a unit (Appendix I).

#### How it Will Be Used in Classroom

Within the classroom, teachers can pre-assess students by using KWL charts, writing prompts, initiating activities, etc. A quick questioning of students allows for teachers to get a quick grasp and insight to where the students' previous knowledge lies. Formative assessment can be given as exit slips, homework assignments, discussions, etc. Summative assessments can be given as tests or papers. While performance assessments can be writing a poem, a rap, creating a painting, etc. There is flexibility within all forms of assessment which should be utilized.

## Conclusion

There have been multiple takeaways from this course, for me. I loved getting to further develop my lesson planning skills. I realized how truly vital it is to differentiate learning which can only be done after getting to know the students. I learned that it is so important to take learning to the next level. Humans are not uniform; we all learn in a multitude of ways. However, we all crave that education. This course really gave me an inside look of how to make learning engaging. I learned how to take my ideas of how I want the education system to work/be effective and make it a reality. All of the artifacts in my appendices are ones that I know I can use, or at least refer to, in my future career. I loved learning how to become the teacher I want to be.

# References

L Borich, Gary D. (2017). *Effective teaching methods: Research based practice*. University of Texas at Austin: Pearson Education, Inc.

Wong, H. K., & Wong, R. T. (2018). The first days of school: How to be an

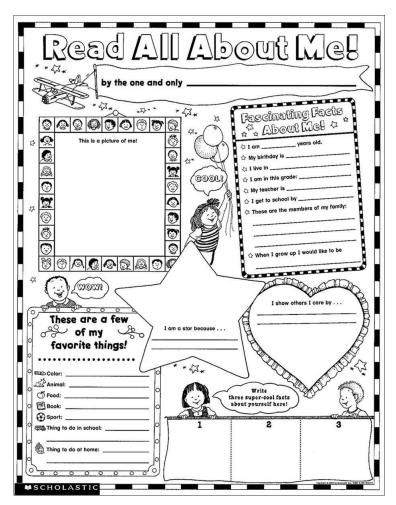
effective teacher (K. Sturak, Ed.). Harry K Wong Publications, Inc.

# Appendix A



This box allows for students to discreetly ask for help. While teachers should always be available to talk in class, answer questions, give advice, etc. it can often be difficult for students to ask for big help. This box should be checked at the end of each day and responded to within the week. This is really a simple way to help students feel safe and know that they can ask for help at any given time. This is also a really good option for school counselors and can easily be placed throughout the school.





This tool is one that should be utilized at the beginning of the year to document students' interests, get a sense of what their home life is, dig a little deeper into who these students are inside and outside of the classroom. This tool can be updated every year to collect new information and get to know students as they learn and grow.

## Appendix C

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Goals: General expressions of our values that give us a sense of direction.

(Doing things for an achievement or accomplishment for which certain efforts are put. Something you hope to achieve.)

Standards: Are derived from goals to specifically identify what will be learned-energize and motivate.

- Developed from national academic standards
- Written by local educators and consultants
- Offer guidance in core curriculum areas, while allowing ("encouraging") curriculum created at the local school district level.
- Revised periodically
- · Supported by state policy makers
- · Every 2 years something education related happens
- · Are not mandatory but are aligned with state assessment

(Uncompromising way to live your life. Define our actions and behaviors. Uncompromising expectations that must be met. Kind of like rules.)

**Objectives**: Convey the specific behavior to be attained, the conditions under which the behavior must be demonstrated, and the proficiency at which the behavior must be performed.

- (Specific targets within a goal, time-related to achieve a certain task.)
  - WHEN-give timeline of when student should know standard
  - WHAT-what do students need to know (from standard)
     HOW-how will students demonstrate that they know the
  - HOW-how will students demonstrate that they know the standard (this is where you put your own spin on it, allow choice, etc.)

Standards and objectives are frequently used within the classroom to reach goals. It is

vital to understand these terms before applying them in the classroom and in lesson plans. Using

Bloom's Taxonomy helps in determining the level of understanding for each objective. By

constantly writing and improving objectives to fit standards, a teacher can become much more

effective in pushing students toward reaching classroom goals.

One Standard and Objectives

4.MD.3 "Apply the area and perimeter formulas for rectangles in real world and mathematical problems."

Objectives:

- Students will be able to recognize the perimeter and area formulas for rectangles by the end of this chapter (Bloom's Taxonomy: Knowledge stage)
- Students will be able to classify the length and width of a triangle (Bloom's taxonomy: Analyze stage)
- Students will be able to connect this knowledge when solving math problems and realworld problems through using real world materials and examples to apply the area and perimeter formulas for rectangles (Bloom's taxonomy: Analyze stage)

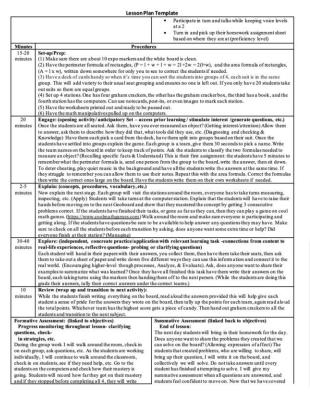
<sup>(</sup>I.e. Have students go home and measure and apply the formulas to household objects)

# Appendix D

This is a personal example of a lesson plan for a mathematics lesson. As seen on this artifact, the standard and objectives are stated clearly. There are step-by-step instructions to ensure efficiency, however; there is also a lot of flexibility to stray from these instructions, if necessary. Having a backup plan and a reflection on the lesson plan template, allows for teachers to not back themselves into a corner and constantly tweak and expand upon their lesson plans.

	n Template	Lesson Plan T	Template
Grade: 4th         Materials: whieboard, expo markers, paper, pencils, deck of cards for grouping students, the perimeter formula, and the area formula of rectanglikar books, and work sheets about permeter and area. Individual computers for students to access math manipularies on the.         Barrectound Naregies:       Ouided panetice         Scoratis Semmar       Perr tasching/collaboration/ cooperative learning         Scoratis Semmar       PBL         Lecture       Discussion/Debate         Technology       Modeling         Other (list)       Modeling	Subject: Mathematics Technology Needed: Projector screen to show the directions on the board and the area and perimeter form ulas. Computers for students to access math manipulatives online. (http://hvm.asss.edu/cn/nw/category w_2 l 1.3.html) Guided Practices and Concrete Applications:      Garge group activity      Hands-on     Independent activity      Technology integration     Paring collaboration     Paring collaboration     Paring collaboration     Formations Scenarios     Explaint     Hands-on     Technology integration     Paring collaboration     Instance.     Repeat/Mimie     Simulations/Scenarios     Explaint     Hands-on     Instance.     Technology integration     Paring collaboration     activity: use the cards,     have students pick a card     at an dand, groups are     chosen by whoever thas the     same number of face cand,     there should be 4 to a     paring collaboration		mastery by getting 3 consecutive problems correct. Then, they will move on to Geoboard. Circular. Again, if they feel confident, they must show their mastery by answering 3 consecutive problems correct. Then, they can move on to Geoboard-Coordinate. If they feel confident, they must show mastery by answering 3 consecutive problems correctly. Then, they can move on to the final Geoboard- consecutive problems correct. The first Geoboard cover what was discussed in class, the following 3 pe above and beyond. Profisency is measured by the students' choices and willingness to keep going. Modalities/Learning Preferences: Visual Intelligence: The students will be able to see the objects ai 3D before them. Viscow will be available for further explanation. Students will be able to ace and manipulate shapes to create their own problems to solve. Linguistic Intelligence: Students will take the formulas and apply them to their fives by writing if down.
Standard(s)	from their lives. And when students work on their computers. Differentiation		Interpersonal Intelligence: Students will work together in groups, collaborating, talking, and sharing. Intrapersonal Intelligence: Students will do independent
<ul> <li>(AMD3 Apply the area and perimeter formulas forrectangles in real world and mathematical problems.</li> <li><b>Objective(i)</b></li> <li>Students will be able to</li> <li>(1) Recognize the perimeter and area formulas for rectangles.</li> <li>(2) Classify length and width of a rectangle.</li> </ul>	Students will be paired into groups of 4. Even though they are a mix of below, approaching, and above proficiency students they will all contribute, ask questions, collaborate, apply to their own lives, etc. (If further instruction is needed, there are videos available to the students)		work when applying to their lives and when working on their math manipulatives. Logical Intelligence: Students will use logic and reasoning to create examples and determine solutions to their formulas.
<ol> <li>Use the formulas on provided materials.</li> <li>Apply this knowledge to math problems and real-world problems.</li> <li>Use technology responsibly and effectively.</li> <li>Work independently, increasing, and improving their knowledge.</li> </ol>	For the individual work I will Below Proficiency: Ask for students to write, draw, explain, bring in pictures of, etc. At least 3 everyday objects, situations, or scenarios that they can apply the area and perimeter formulas for rectangles.		Kinesthetic Intelligence: Students will be able to interact, hold, physically hold, manipulate, etc. with the objects they are using to determine their area and perimeter. techavior Expectations- (systems, strategies, procedures pecific to the lesson, rules and expectations, etc.)
Bloom's Taxonomy Cognitive Level: This ranges from the first stage, remember, to the final stage, create.	Above Proficiency: Challenge these students to find at least 3 objects at home they can "break down" to apply the area and perimiter formula for teachings. They will write down apply the student of the student of the student phome and attempt to solve. Once they have solved, they will create a word problem, show their work, and solve the problems they predicted. Approaching/Emerging Proficiency: Have these students write a list of a least 3 objects, scenarios, situations, etc.	Small groups     Active listening     Voice levels need to stay around a 2 or 3     Everyone participates     Trart materials with care     Apply our basic classroom rules (hands to yourself, be     kind, be considerate, be respectful, etc.)     Always put materials back where you found them     Everyone holps	fudents are expected to Work is mail groups quickly and productively Be active listeners to their peers and the teacher Keep voice levels around a 2 or 3 during group work Sharviparticipate, takestums, be encounging to others, etc. Treat the materials with care Apply our basic classroom rules (hands to yourself, be kind, be considerate, be respectful, etc.) Always put materials back where you found them Help in the cleaning process, help their peers, and help
	That they can apply the area and perimeter formula for rectangles. They will then create? problems on their own using the objects, scenarios, situations, etc. on their list. They will not have to solve on their own, can bring back to class to solve in class. (Create) <b>Computers for Every Student</b> : All students will start with the first (Coboard until they feel they have mastered a. If they are comfortable to move on, they must show their	<ul> <li>Transition (ring the bell, play a song to use for cleaning)</li> <li>Clean up</li> <li>Individual work</li> <li>Voice level at a 0</li> <li>Turn and tak (voice level at a 2)</li> <li>Turn in and pick up your home work assignment sheet based on where you are at</li> </ul>	Help in the cleaning process, help there peers, and help themselvers     Transition when the bell rings and finish cleaning their area swhen the clean-up song is complete Work individually quietly and productively Keep voice levels at a 0 during individual work Treat computers with care Work on the computers diligently

## EDU 320 SYNTHESIS PAPER



Lesson Plan down a question they had or what frustrated them (Create) This all move forward in the lesson as a class. If students struggle to veric down what they are thicking, will all how an onl explanation. I will assess them on their turned in worksheet from the assignments one of they accounty used the formals.could accurate logical and how farthey got on their math manipulatives. the perimeter and area of rectangles and squares, does anyone have an idea of how to measure the area and perimeter of a circle or triangle? (Structuring and redirecting learning) I will then link this material and the questions at vulnesh ad when it came to mastering the math manipulatives with our upcoming material.

Template

Consideration for Back-up Plan: Hand out objects to each individual readout to interact and a pply the area and/or plant and/or to interact and a pply the area and/or plant their objects to the next student. Groups students by level of profilency and allow for extra time as students don't feel make. Have the purpowerk be, students coming up with ainations, scenarios, scampb problems, stc: Where this conten-tioned a, written on the board, or deviced allowed.

tumed in, written on the board, or shared aloud. Reflection (What went well? What did the students learn? How do you know? What changes would you make?)

Spend time before the lesson to see who remembers what, who is above, below, and approaching proficiency to help with grouping Maybe assign team leaders for each group (whoever is above proficiency that could help lead, paide, explain concepts to studentis). I could also assign different "jobs" to the students. Have students who will share, make connections throughout the assignment, I could also assign different "jobs" to the students. Have students who will share, make connections to students who will keep students on track/on time, have a student who will make sure everyone gets he

If applicable-overall unit, chapter, concept, etc.: For the summative assessment there can be a regular chapter(est, a game of jeopardy, an oral assessment, or a power point presentation with a demonstration. These options are to ensure student choice while still assessing students properly on the content.

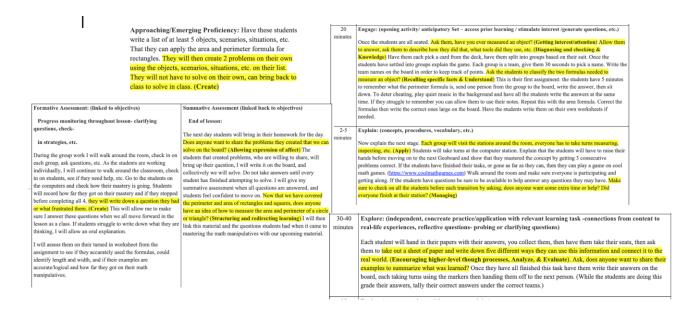


# Appendix E

YouTube · Flocabulary

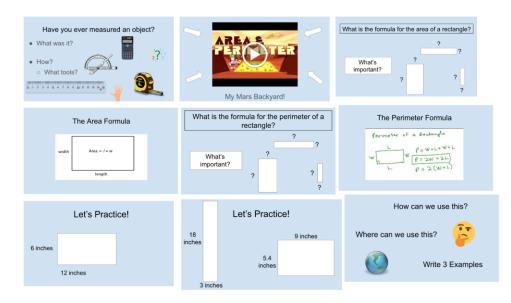
These three technological sources match up with the lesson plan from Appendix D. By allowing students to watch a catchy video that turns pertinent information into a fun song, helps them to commit those formulas to memory. Mathematic manipulatives allow students to tinker, create, and measure objects on their own. Fun websites like coolmathgames.com, engages students in academic computer games while enhancing learning. These are just a few examples of how to incorporate technology in the classroom.

## Appendix F



Questions should often be included in lesson plans, as seen above. These highlighted portions are examples of incorporating questions, with different purposes and different levels from Bloom's Taxonomy. While these questions more pose as an outline/guide, they give the teacher a starting point of what to ask students and provide the flexibility to build off each question.

## Appendix G

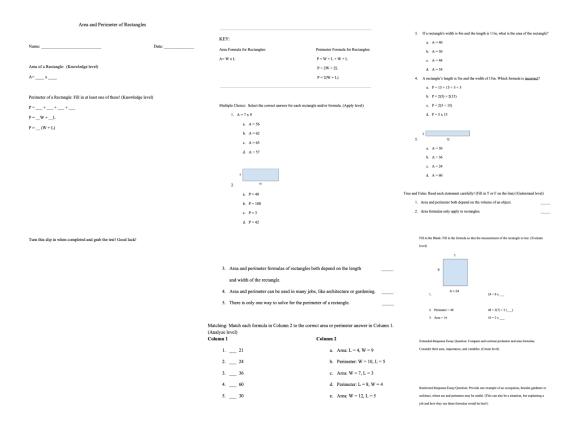


This a basic PowerPoint used to teach fourth grade mathematics. This direct instruction teaches students the area and perimeter formulas of rectangles. The lesson plan that this direct instruction stems from is shown in Appendix D. The presentation starts with a discussion, or prompting questions. Then, the teacher shows the class a video where the information is framed in a catchy song. There are many chances for practicing/applying these formulas throughout the direct instruction. The presentation has limited words, has images, is clean, and to the point. This is a very simple example of direct instruction within the classroom.

# Appendix H



This indirect instruction idea also relates to the lesson plan seen in Appendix D. The goal of this indirect instruction was to allow students to use their knowledge of are and perimeter to create/replicate a specific town, city, or street. Students will work independently and cooperatively with their group members. Students will be able to apply their understanding of area and perimeter concepts to a real-world example. They will also improve their presentation skills and critical thinking skills.



Appendix I

This is a typical example of a summative assessment, relating to Appendix D. This test covers one lesson. The following assessment contains, five true/false questions, five multiple choice, five matching, five fill in the blank, and two short answer/essay questions. On this particular assessment, I provided a key with the formulas. However, before seeing the key, students were to fill out the formulas and turn that slip in first. I did this so as to test both the students' memory of these formulas and their application skills.