

Guidelines for Writing Learning Targets and Success Criteria

Summary of Characteristics and Related Questions

Characteristics of Learning Targets and Success Criteria	Related Questions to Ask
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The learning target focuses on the learning, not the activities.2. The learning target focuses the lesson on the highest priority learning for that lesson.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Is the learning target focused on the important math or science content of the lesson?b. Does the learning target make clear what the central focus is for the lesson?
<ol style="list-style-type: none">3. The success criteria describe examples of something a student will be able to say, do, or produce if the learning is on track toward reaching the learning target. They are tangible and observable.4. The success criteria collectively provide enough evidence to make both students and teacher confident that students have reached the learning target.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">c. Does at least one of the success criteria describe something students can do correctly? (Procedural success criteria)d. Does at least one of the success criteria describe something students can explain or describe accurately? (Conceptual success criteria)e. Do the success criteria, as a collection, describe what students should be able to do or say to show they have met the learning target?
<ol style="list-style-type: none">5. The learning target and the success criteria are aligned to each other.6. Both the learning target and the success criteria are written to be understandable by students.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">f. Do the success criteria provide evidence of the understanding described in the learning target (do they match up well)?g. Do the learning target and success criteria include terminology that students already know or will learn as a result of the lesson activities?

Common Pitfalls to Avoid with Success Criteria

- 1) Success criteria can be too specific.
- 2) Success criteria can end up sounding like the lesson agenda.
- 3) Success criteria can end up turning into a long list, if they include all the necessary prerequisites to the lesson's idea.