

Planning lessons

Set objectives: When planning a lesson, set the performance objectives.

You need to determine the students' performance objectives for each class period– what will the students be able to achieve by the end of the period and what is your expectation regarding the completion of the task.

Three steps are necessary (or at least preferable) for any objective/material:

Presentation, Practice and Performance.

Factors to take into consideration:

- Time: How much time you can devote to a specific task.
- Resources: What the book already provides, what you can supplement with external sources (movies, articles, youtube videos, songs, etc...)
- Four skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. Although we try to emphasize speaking in class time, do not forget to incorporate the other skills. You'll be surprised when you see how much your students need to learn how to listen.

Christine's recommendations:

1. Vary activities throughout the class period (do some review, present new material, do some practice)
2. Vary type of activities (listening, speaking, writing, reading – although writing and reading tend to take longer, they should sometimes be incorporated into classroom activities)
3. Vary group size (prof-class, groups of 2, groups of 3, students circulating)
4. Throughout the semester, vary how you present activities (don't always present dialogues the same way for example) and try to incorporate outside material.
5. If you have planned too little for a class period, don't panic! Play a game of hangman (or something else) - your students will enjoy it and it will be a good review of the chapter's vocabulary.
6. If you planned too much, don't forget to adjust the homework assignment. If you don't have time to do so during class, you can email your class listserve after class or post it on Blackboard.

Examples of objectives for a French 110 class for the first day of classes.

Day 1 Class objectives:

1. Immerse the students in French from the onset and have them speak French on the first day so they feel they're already learning.
2. Explain how things will work in the class (administrative details as well as the expectations of the instructor and the responsibilities incumbent to the students).
3. In terms of language acquisition: cover the alphabet and some expressions to get to know someone.
4. Learn your students' names and have them learn each other's name.