

Artifact Reflection- 7th Grade Exploratory Blocking Chart

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This Blocking Chart was created in March, 2008. Due to the overload of courses which my cooperating teacher and I were assigned to, we had to develop a basic course plan for the semester. The 7th Grade was on a rotation, and as I taught my first section, I organized a blocking chart based on how long it took lessons. The timeline was easy to develop because I kept a daily log of the material that I covered. I made adjustments where they were needed, and it allowed for better time management the second time I taught the material.

This blocking chart would be very valuable in the future to help plan and show how the course objectives will be met. I found it very time consuming to develop even a basic course plan and this will save me a great deal of time. I plan on creating these for every course that I will teach in the future, so that if I have to teach any of them again, I will know what I have to prepare for.

Changes that could be made to this chart may come from an innovative teaching method that I feel might work better. If I find that my activities or teaching methods aren't conveying the ideas I intend to convey, I will make changes as well. I realize that this is just a plan for personal reference, and class schedules can be altered to accommodate weather, assemblies, and emergency situations. It is always nice to have alternative activities that help fill in gaps and/or activities that can be shortened to accommodate time crunches.

Another useful purpose to have a blocking chart might be for parent/teacher conferences. Parents can see how much material is covered over a time span. The teacher can then back up the lessons with the relevance of the course being taught.

The Wisconsin Teaching Standards that apply to this blocking chart are "Knowing Content," "How Children Grow," "How to Evaluate Themselves," and "How to Plan Lessons." The main domain focus is on "Planning and Preparation." I feel that the blocking chart fits the teaching standard "How to Evaluate Themselves," because it needs occasional updating. Finding new methods of teaching concepts may affect the amount of time that is required. If a teaching method doesn't work at all, it may need to be replaced.

I found this blocking chart very helpful in teaching a second group of students. I was able to review the lessons, and it reminded me of activities I had forgotten about, and even though I might have thought I wouldn't forget, it happens.