

Writing Learning Outcomes



Putting the Pieces Together

Learning Outcomes (LO) define what a student should know, demonstrate and be able to do after successful completion of a program.

LOs are clear, concise, program specific, and observable.

STEP 1: Begin with an Introduction

Start the outcome identifying the "who", such as:

"By then end of the program, students will be able to..."
"Graduates of this program will be able to...."

STEP 2: Add a Verb

Use words that describe actions that can be observed and measured (ie. identify, produce, conduct)

Avoid words that describe passive or hidden actions (ie. know, understand, appreciate)

Consult Bloom's Taxonomy of Action words for more ideas

STEP 3: Add a Learning Statement

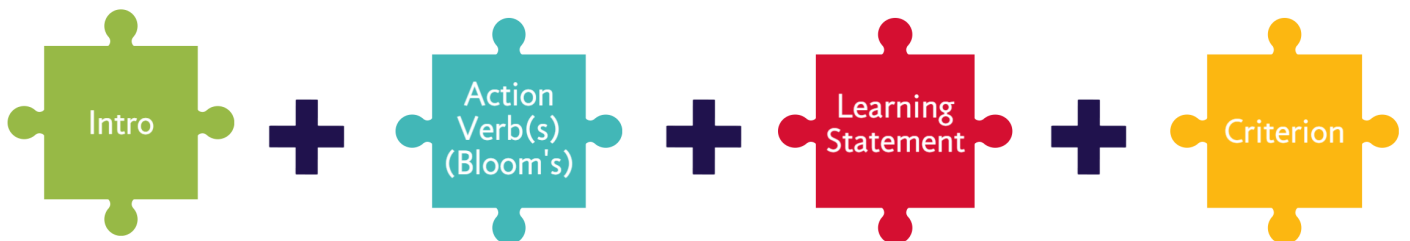
This describes the knowledge or product that is taken to be evidence of learning, such as:

"the meaning of major texts"
"persuasive articles"
"independent research"

STEP 4: Specify a Criterion

This specifies the standard for acceptable practice:

"from both Western and non-Western culture."
"suitable for printing in news publications."
"that extends current knowledge in the chosen field of study."



Examples:

Graduates of the program will be able to...

Identify the significance of major texts from both Western and non-western cultures.

Produce persuasive articles suitable for printing in news publications.

Conduct independent research that extends current knowledge in the chosen field of study.

