

Unit Plan Assignment

ED 440: The Teaching of English

Background:

One of the most important elements of your job as a teacher will be planning – how you plan for a year, for a semester, for a single unit, will depend on what you know about your students, what you know about ELA content, and what you know about good pedagogy. Thus, we will spend much of this semester working on and constructing unit plans with the young adult novels you have chosen as anchor texts. By “anchor text,” I mean a focal text around which the rest of your unit will revolve – a text from which you glean major themes, strategies you want to teach, and a prompt for a major writing assignment, which will be your summative assessment.

Building the Unit Plan:

Your unit plan will consist of the following elements:

1. A unit overview, which will include a unit rationale (why this unit is an important one for students to experience), learning targets (your ultimate goals for the unit), Common Core standards aligned with learning targets, and orienting questions for the unit.
2. A summative assessment in the form of a “writing prompt.” This prompt could be a single prompt all students must respond to or a variety of prompts students from which students may choose.
3. A writing mini-lesson that teaches a writing strategy important to helping students move towards the ultimate goals of the unit and the summative assessment.
4. A gateway lesson that will introduce students to the unit, excite them about what’s to come, and get them thinking about the major themes of the unit and the strategies they will learn throughout it.
5. At least two consecutive lesson plans from some point within the unit, one or both of which focus on a specific reading or speaking/listening strategy (this can come out of your discussion lesson, which you will be enacting in your placement, if it fits. This can also come out of your three-day-teach, *if it fits*).
6. A unit plan calendar that outlines the topic for each day, goals for that day, how those goals will be assessed, and general activities planned for that day.

Assessment:

You will receive grades as you turn in pieces of the unit plan – these grades are meant to help you think through where you are in the process of designing that portion of your unit plan. Your unit plan as a whole will be graded separately when you turn in all components, revised according to the feedback you received, at the end of the semester. However, these grades on drafted portions are also somewhat flexible -- if something isn’t making sense as you draft, you can always come see me in office hours and ask about the possibility of revising.

Let me know if you have any questions or concerns as we go! You’ll receive assignment sheets for each assignment as it is due with further information, but you can refer back to this form if you want to see where we’ve been and where we’re headed!