

# PLANNING IN ePEARL

## Lesson Plan 4

### PURPOSE

To introduce learners to the features of ePEARL that will help them plan their artifacts.  
To explain the importance of planning in the learning process and clarifying the language in the planning stage of ePEARL.

### OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson learners should be able to:

- 1) Understand the benefits of planning their work.
- 2) Understand the meanings of the following terms: description, criteria, task goals, and strategies.
- 3) Enter their plan for a new artifact in ePEARL.

### TIME REQUIRED

45 – 60 minutes (depending on amount of hands-on time)

### MATERIALS REQUIRED

- 1) This lesson plan.
- 2) Internet-connected computer; projector & speakers or interactive white board.
- 3) A new assignment that you have already introduced or will be introducing to your learners. You should have a clear explanation of the assignment as well as a rubric that you have saved on the class' shared folders, or a list of grading criteria in mind.
- 4) A printed list or a poster of possible strategies for learners to choose from. (There is a sample goals and strategies sheet on the wiki that you may refer to).

### TOPICS ADDRESSED

- 1) How planning any project can help to do better work in and outside of school.
- 2) Understanding the terms: description, criteria, task goals & strategies.
- 3) Helping learners identify useful task goals and strategies.
- 4) Navigating the Planning stage in ePEARL.

### PLANNING TIPS

- Test the video and equipment the day before to be sure the audio is loud enough and the projector works.
- Preview the Virtual Tutorial chapter “Planning – Part I (5:28) and Part II (4:18)” to review how to do this in ePEARL.
- Print out the scripts of these two chapters for quick reference during the lesson.
- Practice inputting the information for the sample assignment in your own portfolio so you can use it to demonstrate it during the lesson.

## INTRODUCTORY VIDEO

Start by telling the class that you will be starting a new assignment in class today and since this will be an ePEARL assignment, they are going to learn about the steps required for starting a new work in ePEARL. You might say something like: “Today we are going to talk about creating a new piece of work in ePEARL. First, we are going to talk about the importance of planning our work in school. To help you understand what I mean by planning, we are going to watch a video on this topic.”

- 1) Show video from the teacher resources page: Level 2 – Planning – Overview.
- 2) After the video write some key terms on the board: General Goals, Task Goals, Strategies.
- 3) Review the meaning of General Goals and talk about how Task Goals are different.
  - a) Task goals are short-term goals.
  - b) Task goals are directly related to a specific assignment.
  - c) Task goals are the stepping stones to help us reach our General Goals.
  - d) We should think about our General Goals whenever we set our Task Goals
- 4) Introduce the concept of “strategies”:
  - a) Strategies are specific behaviors that help us meet our Task Goals.
  - b) Offer ideas for some strategies that you have talked about with learners (see worksheet on wiki for examples & ideas).

## TEACH

Next you will explain to the learners the importance of having a clear plan for their work: “Now I want you to think about how it feels if you are trying to get someplace and you don’t have a map. Is it possible to reach your destination if you don’t know how to get there? Working on school assignments is like traveling to a destination. If you don’t have a map, or a plan on how you are going to get there, you may get lost and never arrive at your destination – or your goal. Whenever we do a project in class you should think about these steps and ePEARL will help us remember our plan.”

- 1) Once you have introduced the concept of planning and key terms, you should introduce the assignment they will be working on. Provide them a clear idea of the title, description and criteria. The more specific you are, the easier it will be for learners to create a clear plan.
- 2) Creating a rubric and storing it on the shared folder for them to attach, or printing a list of criteria for a “good work” on the board is a valuable step to give learners clear ideas to help them in setting their task goals.
- 3) BRAINSTORM: Ask learners for ideas of task goals they might have for this assignment. It may be helpful to offer one or two to get them started. Keep this list on the board for learners to refer to. As you do these steps more often with learners, you will need to provide less structure and learners will more easily be able to come up with task goals themselves.

## DEMONSTRATION

Show your learners the artifact you created in your own portfolio. Use this opportunity to reinforce the description and expectation of the assignment and have learners brainstorm a list of task goals and strategies for this work. Make connections with some of the ideas in the video.

VIDEO: Show the “Planning – Part I” chapter of the Virtual Tutorial. This will show learners the parts of the software that will help them plan their work.




**Tip**

Although it may be tempting to provide a predetermined list of task goals and strategies for the whole class, it is more valuable if you can coach learners into coming up with these themselves. You may provide some sample ideas, but it is important for the learners to begin developing these skills more independently. This gives them a sense of ownership over their work. You will most likely need to do additional lessons on setting task goals and establishing strategies (see videos and handouts on Teacher Resources page for more support). The more you integrate these activities through all of your teaching – whether you are using ePEARL that day or not -- the easier it will be for learners to use these steps consistently and effectively and demonstrate them in their portfolios

**HANDS-ON**

If you have access to computers for most of the learners, they can open a new artifact and start planning in ePEARL. Oftentimes working in pairs is a helpful strategy so learners can help each other as they plan their work. If you don't have access to computers for most of your learners, you can use the planning worksheets (download from the teacher resources page and make copies) and learners can start making their plan and enter it in their ePEARL when they get a turn at the computer.

**Tip**

If learners get stuck planning in their ePEARLs, they can click on the question mark icon  to read the help text or view a support video on their own. It may be helpful to have a few sets of headphones around for learners who want to watch these videos.

