SETTING GOALS

A goal is the result a student wants to accomplish, long-term and short-term. In ePEARL, students are asked to set two types of goals:

GENERAL GOALS

The first is a general or long-term goal, which are subject specific and which students will take a whole term or year to accomplish and work towards

Tip: if student struggles to form general goals, suggest they try entering a general goal for each subject.

Teachers can offer comments to guide and support their students in setting more appropriate and challenging goals for themselves.
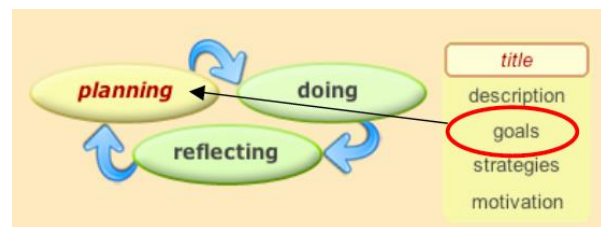
To learn more, watch this level 3 virtual tutorial about general goals.

TASK GOALS

The second type of goals is task goals or short-term goals. These are specific to the task at hand, or project the student is asked to complete.

A Task Goal should be:
- Specific;
- Focus for this work;
- Clear, detailed and with reasons;
- Not too difficult but challenging.

Questions to ask students to prompt task goals:
- What do you want to accomplish that was challenging for you, or that you wanted to get better at?
- Think about your last writing/reading task, what did you find difficult?
- What are some of specific the skills you need to work on? i.e., spelling, detailed writing, punctuation, etc.
- Think about your teacher's comments on your last piece of work and show others for feedback.

Here are some examples of good task goals:

- "I want to write a vivid story, by including lots of details on the characters, place and events."
- "I want to finish our work on time, so that we can have enough time to practice our presentation."
- "I want to make sure I really understand what I read before I try to answer the reading response questions."
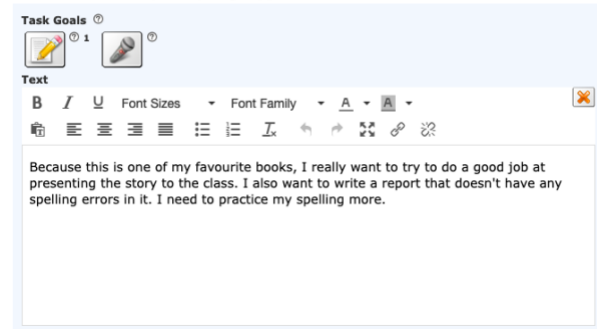
Setting a Task Goal in ePEARL

Level 2

1) Go to the Artifacts page.
2) Create a new artifact or go to an existing one.
3) Go to the Goals step.
   If you are using the multi-page mode, it is the third step in the planning phase.
   If you previously created general goals, you can use the checklist to connect your artifact to a general goal as well (see additional instructions below).
4) Select either the text editor or recorder in the toolbar.
5) Write or say the task goal(s).
6) Go to the Strategies step.
7) Use the toolbar to list some strategies that will help you attain your task goal(s).
   Prompt students with: What will they do to achieve their goal? Are there resources needed or skills that you have to developed?

Tip: Use ePEARL's embedded feedback feature to provide specific comments on the learners' task goal(s) and strategies to help guide, support, and encourage them.
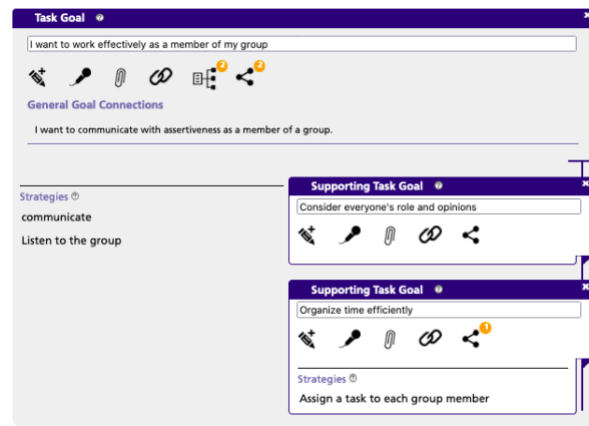
Level 3

1) Go to the Artifacts page.
2) Create a new artifact or go to an existing one.
3) Scroll to the Goals section.
4) Press on the *Add New Task Goal* button.
5) Write the task goal in the textbox.
6) Decide if you want to use any of the toolbar features to elaborate on your goal.
   Supporting Task Goal, will help you break down the goal into more manageable steps.
   Strategy, can define purposeful actions that will help achieve the goal.

Linking Task Goals to General Goals

In ePEARL, the student can link his/her task goal to his/her general goals. This encourages the student to think about how specific goals in a piece of work relate to their broader, long-term goals. This shows them how a general goal is achieved through smaller, specific, and detailed goals in each piece of work completed throughout the year.

For example, when working on a legend, the student would link his/her task goal of "I want to write a vivid story" to the general goal of "This year in English, I would like to become a better writer".

General Goal Connections
⑦ add/edit goals

☐ This term I would really like to concentrate on improving my time management skills. I think that I leave things to the last minute too often and then I end up arguing with my mother because I worry that I won't get my work done on time. If I improve these skills then I will be able to tackle some of the extra work that is offered in the Brain Quest program. This will help me when I am looking for high schools next year.

☐ Next year my goal is to win the CanWest Spelling Challenge and the Geography Challenge. I made the top ten this year and I think I can do it if I take lots of time to prepare.

☑ This year in English, I want to become a better writer

top

Goals ☑

Task Goals ⑦ Updated 03/05/08

Because this work will be used in a class presentation, I want to write a vivid story that will be interesting to my classmates.

Once the student has completed the legend, they can then evaluate themselves based on their goals and strategies. They can ask themselves:
- Did I generate interest from my classmates?
- What were the types of questions the students in the class asked me?
- Did they seem confused?

- What did I learn?
- Which strategies worked?
- What would I do differently next time?