Backward Design Made Easy

ChatGPT's Guide to Effective Curriculum Design

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Backward design is a powerful tool for crafting effective curriculum plans. However, designing stimulating instructional materials, creating authentic assessments, and ensuring all elements of your plan are beautifully aligned can be a time-consuming and daunting task for many educators. This guide will help you create a focused and coherent learning plan in just a couple of hours. Take the first step towards a more efficient and effective curriculum design process by giving this guide a try!

Curriculum Expectations and Learning Outcomes

Start with identifying **curriculum expectations** and developing clear **learning outcomes**. These outcomes will serve as the foundation for your unit plan and assessments. Use the provided ChatGPT prompt to analyze the curriculum expectations and write clear and concise learning outcomes for the unit, using strong action verbs and **the ABC method (audience, behavior, and conditions)**. Ensure the learning outcomes are appropriate for your audience and save them for use in later steps.

ChatGPT Prompt

Analyze the curriculum expectations below and write clear and concise learning outcomes for a unit. Use strong action verbs and the ABC method (audience, behavior, and condition). Example: Students will identify the main idea and supporting details in an informational article.

Audience: [insert]

Curriculum expectations: [insert]

Enduring Understandings

Once you have reflected on the curriculum expectations and learning outcomes, use the provided ChatGPT prompt to make a list of **enduring understandings**. Enduring understandings are the key concepts or big ideas that students should take away from the unit and remember beyond the specific content covered. These enduring understandings should be **concise**, **essential**, and **relevant** to the identified audience.

ChatGPT Prompt

Formulate enduring understandings aligned with the intended learning outcomes below. These understandings should help students understand the content more deeply and provide a framework for organizing learning.

Essential Questions

Use the next prompt to develop **essential questions** that will guide learners toward understanding. The questions should be **open-ended**, **thought-provoking**, and **encourage higher-order thinking**. Aligning these questions with the intended learning outcomes and enduring understandings will help ensure that everything is connected and focused.

ChatGPT Prompt

Based on the enduring understandings below, create essential questions that guide students toward understanding. These questions should be open-ended, thought-provoking, and engage students in higher-order thinking. Align the questions with the intended learning outcomes and the enduring understandings to ensure coherence and focus.

Intended learning outcomes: [insert]

Enduring understandings: [insert]

Assessment of Learning

What kind of **real-world task** will allow students to show what they've learned? Use the following prompt to create an assessment of learning that would follow **the GRASPS framework (goal, audience, situation, product, and standards)**. To make sure the learners are meeting the intended learning outcomes, check if the assessment of learning is aligned with these outcomes and the enduring understandings you've identified in the previous steps.

ChatGPT Prompt

Using the GRASPS framework (Goal, Role, Audience, Situation, Product, Standards), design and develop an assessment of learning that measures students' understanding of the learning outcomes and enduring understandings. Consider the context of the assessment, and ensure that the goals, roles, and products are authentic and meaningful to students. Align the assessment with the standards and the intended learning outcomes below.

Enduring understandings: [insert]

Intended learning outcomes: [insert]

Analytic Rubrics

Once an assessment of learning has been developed, use the next prompt to create an analytic rubric to assess and evaluate learner performance. The rubric should be aligned with the intended learning outcomes and enduring understandings and include **clear criteria** and descriptions for each level of performance.

Learning Plan

The final step is to design and develop a coherent and focused learning plan that aligns with the learning assessment and the learning outcomes. Use the final prompt to create a plan that includes authentic, meaningful, and differentiated activities as well as assessments as learning.