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Reflection Paper

Curriculum guide

The topic of my oral presentation is the curriculum guide. I had to explore this topic with the following subtopics included: learning outcome, learning strand, learning standards, learning indicators and learning objectives with SMART guide.

I found it important that everybody understands the exact meaning of these words, so I decided to use a clear layout where I gave the definition of the above topic/subtopics, and structured it in a way that - beyond the definition - the audience gets an understanding of not just what they are, but also what their importance is and what their purpose is. I also used some comparisons to contrast some definitions (e.g.: learning outcomes and learning indicators) that are not easy to understand rightaway.

After clarifying the meaning of these terms it was time to see their usage in practice, so I gave examples of educational indicators for example. I believe through practical application everything is easier to comprehend and retain. After this I introduced the mnemonic SMART, what it stands for, and how it can be used to write well-written learning objectives.

To follow the above idea about practical application, I gave some SMART examples from outside the field of education so that the audience can understand how to use them. At the end I wanted to include and engage my audience even more, so I thought of an activity where I asked all participants to write a SMART learning objective in the field of education.

My impression is that the presentation was well formulated to the needs of the target audience. Anyone could learn that curriculum guides can be used on many levels, from states down to individual teachers, and are essential to write good lesson plans. I'm especially proud of my comparison of learning outcomes and learning indicators, a point that could have been missed too easily. Here one has to remember that learning outcomes are broadly stated, not measurable, whereas learning indicators are concrete and measurable. My favourite part was talking about the SMART guide in relation to the learning objectives. They have to be Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time-bound, which is good to bear in mind.