



Closing a Lesson: Purposeful Conclusions

(part 3 of 3—see also *Beginning a Lesson* and *During a Lesson*)

The end of a lesson is one of its most crucial phases, and yet these last few important minutes of class are frequently overlooked. All too often, instructors teach right up until the end of the class period and then simply release their students with little or no closure.

Instructors should set aside the necessary time in the final minutes of class to review the major components of the lesson and to ensure the objectives were accomplished. This process gleans both formative and summative assessment information, which is beneficial to both students and instructors.

Effective teaching includes the ability to make professional decisions after the lesson. At the end of each lesson, consider asking yourself, “Did my students learn what I intended to teach them?” This can be done through direct reminder, a question answer discussion period, or a short quiz. Knowing the answer to this question helps inform preparations for the next day’s lesson. Acquiring evidence of what your students learned—or didn’t—will help you make better professional decisions moving forward.

Learning is a series of building blocks; each lesson should naturally flow into the next. Practice the habit of using the last few minutes to summarize the key points of the lesson and provide a preview of the next day’s activities. Make the most of the final minutes of class by being purposeful in your closure.