



## Technique: 4 Ms

Use four criteria to write an effective lesson plan objective -- making it manageable, measurable, made first, and most important

Given the importance of objectives in bringing focus, discipline, and measurability to a lesson, it's worthwhile to think about what makes an objective useful and effective. An artfully designed set of four criteria, the 4 Ms, can be used to ensure that our objectives meet these criteria.

**Manageable** – Can the objective be taught in a single lesson? Is there a good activity that will fit within the time frame, including time for independent practice? Does some means of assessment also fit with the time? By the time the lesson has ended, it's best for you to know whether or not your students have reached the objective. Also, think about the “big goal” that cannot be accomplished in a single 60 minutes. Deep understanding often takes students numerous sessions, days, or even weeks to reach; but it's still useful to determine what you can accomplish today to move students towards mastery.

**Measureable** – “measured” doesn't necessarily mean a “test” or a result you can quantify in a rigorous way. Not all students will reach the same level of success in a given session, so you need some idea beforehand about how you will define success. *Exit Tickets* are strongly encouraged to assess student progress toward the objective for the day.

**Made First** – “made first” means that the objective comes first, shaping the activities within it. Starting with the goal helps us think about the content and design of the activity and how you might adapt it. Even an activity that we've used a dozen times can be tweaked to align more effectively to a specific objective.

**Most Important** – an effective objective focuses on what's most important at this point on your students' path to higher education. That will most likely align to established curriculum and/or standards, but it's a great habit to practice making the case – at least in your own mind – for an objectives importance anyway. In other words, as we are planning, explain to yourself why the objective is important to teach today.

For teacher's summary of TLAC Techniques – **Beginning with the End** and **4ms**- watch General Chemistry Teacher Mr. Jones -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GKtJ-BkVGbc>

Also check out Michael Jr: Know your why – better related to **Beginning with the End**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ytFB8TrkTo>

