

***Introducing English Studies***  
**Chapter 9: Screencast Transcript**

**Slide 1 [Title slide]**

Hello. I am Tamara O’Callaghan, co-author of the textbook *Introducing English Studies*. This screencast will explain “how to create a lesson plan for the English Language Arts (ELA)” in the high school classroom. If you are planning to become a high school English teacher, this screencast is simply an introduction as you will explore the process in much greater detail in your English education courses. For all English majors, knowing something about creating lesson plans will help you to understand what English education majors learn beyond the English courses all of you take together. And you may even recognize the pedagogical approach to high school education that you experienced.

**Slide 2 [Text]**

Topics in this presentation include:

1. What is a Lesson Plan for ELA?
2. Bloom’s Taxonomy
3. Lesson Plan on *The Odyssey*
4. Assessment: Grading Rubric

**Slide 3 [Text]**

It is not easy or intuitive to step into a high school English classroom and teach successfully. Keeping teens engaged with course material and ensuring that they learn can be challenging. Effective lesson plans for every learning goal are essential for classroom organization and student learning.

A lesson plan is not an assignment or class activity. It is the “learning trajectory” of a lesson developed by a teacher to guide student learning. Typically, the plan includes a goal (that is, what students are supposed to learn), the method for reaching the goal, and a means of measuring whether or not the goal was successfully reached.

In general, a lesson plan for the English Language Arts includes the following:

- Title – the title of lesson plan
- Subject area(s) – it will include the English Language Arts, but it can draw on other disciplines
- Grade level(s) – the targeted grade or grades for the lesson
- Duration – the time required to complete lesson, including the assignments and activities
- Materials – the required materials needed for students to complete the assignments and activities for the plan
- Objectives – behavioral or knowledge-based objectives for the lesson
- Instructional component – sequence of events that make up the lesson, including teacher’s instructional input and guided practice by students

- Evaluation component – the assignment or activity that evaluates student mastery of the instructed skills or concepts, including the assessment tool

#### Slide 4 [Text]

Bloom's Taxonomy (or classification system) is the framework for categorizing educational "objectives" developed in 1956 and revised in 2001 by cognitive psychologists, curriculum theorists, and instructional researchers to shift focus to teaching, learning, and assessment.

The Revised Taxonomy uses "action words" (verbs and gerunds) rather than nouns to describe the cognitive process of learning. This approach results in clear, dynamic objectives that can be effectively evaluated. The approach is a hierarchical order of cognitive skills: learning at the higher levels is dependent on having attained prerequisite knowledge and skills at lower levels. Typically, students begin by recognizing and understanding information, then applying and analyzing it, and finally evaluating and creating it themselves.

Consequently, the objectives of lesson plans typically rely on these action verbs. Just search for "Revised Bloom's Taxonomy" and "action verbs" on the internet to get a detailed list.

#### Slide 5 [Text]

Now let's design an ELA lesson plan for high school students studying Homer's *Odyssey* in translation. This slide lists a simple title for the plan and indicates that it can be taught at a high school grade level over two class periods. In addition, the plan draws on both Language and Art as subject areas.

#### Slide 6 [Text]

The objectives are listed here. You can clearly see the action verbs *recognize*, *explain* and *capture* for these objectives that the students must meet along with a brief description of how the objectives will be attained and assessed.

#### Slide 7 [Text]

The next section of the lesson plan addresses the materials that students will need to complete the plan, but more importantly it explains the first class activity for the lesson: the bell ringer.

Do you remember back in high school starting many classes with an activity that focused you on the lesson for that particular day? Since a bell typically rings to indicate the start of a class, such an activity is known to educators as a "bell ringer activity." Bell ringers can consist of a single question, series of sort questions, problem, or task to engage students when they first come into the room. These activities help students focus quickly in preparation for the lesson taught that day.

This activity is one that will allow the teacher to provide direct input by showing students the

cover designs for other editions of *The Odyssey* or even book illustrations and art that visualize the epic poem. Since the activity takes place in class, it also allows the teacher to assess student progress and provide individual help as needed. Students are able to practice skills in small groups while the teacher can give concrete, actionable feedback to everyone in the classroom.

#### **Slide 8 [Text]**

Once students have successfully completed the bell ringer activity under the teacher's guidance, they are ready to complete the independent assignment that will formally be assessed in order to determine if each student has met the lesson objectives.

This assignment requires students to design their own book covers for *The Odyssey* and then reflect in writing on their creative decisions and how those decisions relate to the characters and imagery of the epic poem.

#### **Slide 9 [Text]**

Finally, the lesson plan includes a grading rubric for the essay component. This rubric explains precisely how student writing will be evaluated in terms of both the lesson plan objectives and the ELA skills expected.

A well designed and creative lesson plan is the best way to keep high school students on track and ensures that the learning environment for each lesson is effective and thorough.