

Planning to teach for historical understanding

Points to consider when planning a learning sequence in History

PEDAGOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS

What is the purpose or goal of the learning sequence?



This should include the important information and ideas you want students to know and understand by the end of the learning sequence. It should also refer to the skills you want them to develop and apply.

What will be acceptable evidence of student learning?



Assessment data should be gathered throughout the learning sequence, from a variety of activities. Major projects or culminating tasks should be appropriate for the students and the learning goal and should allow demonstration of knowledge, understanding and skills.

What teaching and learning strategies will enable students to achieve the learning goal?



Effective teachers use a variety of strategies to cater for the range of student abilities and learning styles. Activities should be purposeful (not just 'busy work') and should lead in a coherent way toward the learning goal.

TEACHER BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

What is your knowledge of the relevant historical content and context?



The better you know and understand the historical content and context, the more confidently you will teach it. Become informed about the topic, at least to the extent that you can provide an informed overview for students and can direct them to relevant sources for further information.

How well do you understand the key concepts involved in the topic?



Make sure you know and understand the relevant key concepts and their application in the learning sequence. The key concepts are vital for teaching the process of historical inquiry and for developing historical understanding.

What resources are appropriate for this learning sequence and these students?



Become familiar with and evaluate a range of relevant print and digital resources. Include images, maps, documents, audio and video resources as well as role play, debates, site studies, guest speakers and oral history interviews where appropriate to supplement textbooks (where they are used).