

From Good to Outstanding

Simple ideas to improve the lesson

- Create thought provoking starter activities – have it ready as soon as they arrive on the desk/whiteboard – get them to start as latecomers arrive.
- Use tiered learning objectives: colour coded to help students realise progression from green to orange to red means difficulty increases.
- Use learning objectives not task based objectives.
 - **define/recall/describe/summarise** (green L/O)
 - **explain/compare/discuss/compose** (orange L/O)
 - **analyse/evaluate/investigate** (red L/O)
- Refer to learning objectives consistently throughout the lesson – not just the beginning and the end.
- Use hinge point questions (questions to test understanding before allowing students to move on to the next learning objective)
- Have mini-whiteboards on the desk most lessons-even if you hadn't planned to use them, you might find them invaluable when you have to re-model a task and think on your feet.
- Make sure your resources are creative and have learning objectives on worksheets so students know where they are in the lesson.
- Avoid getting students to copy out definitions/key information- get them to work for this information themselves.
- Step back from being the expert in the class from time to time and let students show their ability to learn independently (odd one out/choose the correct definition/here's the answer- what was the question?)
- Use different types of activities from lesson to lesson – aim to keep students on their toes each lesson so they do not know what to expect.
- Re-model tasks verbally to help differentiate – you can verbally scaffold tasks for individual students without having to have 8 zillion different worksheets.
- Ensure that you speak to every student in the room at least once during a lesson (say hello, ask them a question, praise them, comment on their work).
- If students simply aren't getting the content of your lesson-don't soldier on in fear of deviating from your lesson plan. Instead re-model and re-shape your learning objectives and lesson.

- Ask probing, open-ended questions – ask them to the students without their hands up- even better- apply a no hands up policy from time to time.
- Be consistent with behaviour rules/discipline with every student in the class
- Ensure you know where the learners are with their progression (AFL- mini-whiteboards- post it notes etc.)
- Always have an extension task or two ready – students should never run out of work to complete
- Ensure that you complete a plenary to find out what students have reached what learning objective.