INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES



SMART Goals

By following the SMART goals criteria, students, teachers, and schools can set actionable, clear, and realistic goals that increase the likeliness of achieving desired outcomes.

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SMART GOALS

Summary

A SMART goal is a goal with a specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound objective. This framework is used to provide clarity and structure to goal setting, making objectives easier to track and accomplish. To use this framework, students will write a goal that incorporates a set of components that ensures a systematic approach achieving the stated objective. Use this example: "I will get an A on my current essay in my English class."

Procedure

1. **Specific.** The goal should be clear and well-defined, answering the "what," "why," and "how" of the objective. The example goal identifies which class and what assignment: “I will get an A on my current essay in my English class.”
2. **Measurable.** The goal should include criteria to track progress and determine when the goal has been met. The example gives a measure of “A” as the grade you aspire to achieve on this assignment.
3. **Achievable.** The goal should be realistic, attainable with effort and resources available. For example, an A is achievable because you earned a B on your last essay.
4. **Relevant.** Your goal should align with broader objectives or values. In the example — earning an A on the current essay — this short-term goal might relate to a broader goal of earning an A in the English course and graduating in the top 10% of the senior class.
5. **Time-bound.** A specific timeline for completion should be established. The example goal indicates “current essay,” which probably has a specific due date assigned to it by the teacher.

Doran, G.T. (1981). There’s a SMART way to write management’s goals and objectives. Journal of Management Review, 70, 35-36. https://community.mis.temple.edu/mis0855002fall2015/files/2015/10/S.M.A.R.T-Way-Management-Review.pdf