



## Learning Targets

**Purpose:** By identifying the learning target and making it visible for all students to see and know, the teacher helps the student to clearly know what is expected as a result of each day's learning. This reduces misunderstanding, frustration, and possible classroom disruption and keeps students focused on the learning.

The first step in formative assessment is being clear about the learning goals. Sharing learning targets means more than writing the goal or objective on the board or telling students what the objective is. Most students will be able to repeat back what they have seen and heard. The purpose of this exercise is to ensure that students comprehend what the targets or objectives really mean. This will help them to understand what good work on the assignment looks like. The activity helps students to envision success, set realistic personal goals to reach that success, and to commit to them. It is important that the assigned work match the learning goal as much as possible.

### Steps for getting it done:

- Write the learning target on the board and take time to explain it. Ensure that everyone understands what is expected of them and what the end result looks like, feels like, etc. Have each student state what they understand the goal to be and how they visualize success.
- If time permits draw a visualization or create a statement of what success looks like based on student feedback.
- If some students struggle with this, have them pair with students who have expressed a clear understanding of the target and what success looks like, to discuss the work further before assigning it to the class.
- Throughout the lesson, take time to do spot checks to ensure that students understand and can show evidence through formative assessment that they are mastering the learning target.

### Assignment:

Identify a learning target in a subject that you teach.

1. Describe how you would make it visible for all students to see and know.
2. Explain how you would ensure that every student in the class knows what is expected of them.
3. Write a statement that 'looks like success' that is appropriate for the grade level you teach.
4. Describe how you would monitor progress during the lesson(s).