

# The Basics of Planning for Instruction and Assessment:

## Task 1

### INTRODUCTION

Task 1 of the edTPA focuses on planning for instruction. Just as planning is the foundation for a successful class, Task 1 is the foundation for a successful edTPA portfolio. A well-planned learning segment is crucial for fostering a positive and challenging learning environment (Task 2) and creating an assessment ripe for analysis (Task 3).

### LESSON PLAN TIPS

A successful learning segment does not necessarily fit into any one pedagogical framework. Successful lessons for the edTPA should:

- 1. Be tailored to the students in the featured classroom.** Each student brings unique strengths and needs to the learning environment. Consider who your students are as individuals and as learners and tailor your lessons accordingly. Whether this means engaging in culturally responsive pedagogy, having a highly differentiated lesson, using universal design for learning, or employing other strategies that incorporate knowledge of students, make sure that the lesson plans featured in edTPA are designed or modified for the actual students in the classroom.
- 2. Be student-centered.** Lessons should provide ample opportunities for student engagement. If you engage in direct instruction, make sure you provide students with opportunities to engage. As a general rule, students should be just as active as their teacher.
- 3. Include higher levels of Bloom's Revised Taxonomy.** Lesson plans should provide opportunities for students to be critical thinkers. Lessons that focus on recall or rote memorization will not be successful.

- 4. Adhere to your school's policies and guidelines.**

A successful edTPA experience does not require you to violate the policies of your school, district, or state.

- 5. Be aligned.** Activities and assessments in each daily lesson plan support that day's objectives, which support the central focus, which support the standards you are teaching. More information on alignment follows.

### LEARNING SEGMENT ALIGNMENT

Learning segment alignment is key for success on Task 1. An aligned learning segment is one which all of the components fit together to build student understanding during 3-5 days of connected instruction. When choosing **standards**, think depth over breadth by narrowing the focus of your learning segment to a few, carefully chosen state or national standards. Once you have chosen your standards, determine the **central focus** of your learning segment. Think of the central focus as the main goal for the 3-5 days—what do you want your students to know and be able to do by the end of the learning segment? The **academic language demands** of the learning segment are directly linked to the central focus (not applicable for World Languages (WL) candidates).

The academic language supports and key learning task scaffold student success in meeting the goal of the central focus (not applicable for WL candidates). These supports as well as each **daily objective, activity, and assessment** of your learning segment should directly support the central focus. The components of a successful learning segment should be aligned both **vertically** and **horizontally** so that the activities and assessments not only support the daily objectives, but the lessons build on each other to achieve deeper understanding and higher levels of student engagement each day. A visual representation of learning segment alignment follows.

# Learning Segment Alignment

