

Design a Small-Group Mini-Lesson

A *small-group mini-lesson* provides targeted, direct instruction to a small group of like-ability or like-interest students who need reinforcement, those who are ready to advance in a skill, or students who are auditory learners. These lessons should last approximately 7 to 10 minutes, allowing you time to work with other students and hold discussions with the class. *Small-group mini-lessons* (SGMLs) are effective for students who benefit from more intimate instructional settings. After the lesson, students can practice the new skill with a follow-up activity.

Directions: Follow the step-by-step directions below to design a *small-group mini-lesson* (SGML) to teach, re-teach, or move beyond a certain skill.

Step 1: Based on formative assessment data, identify a skill (or concept) that your students need to learn. Record that skill in the box below, along with the associated standard. Remember that SGMLs should have a narrow focus, digestible in 7–10 minutes. Identifying a narrowly focused SGML topic will allow students to know the objective up front.

Step 2: Consider the questions you could ask to trigger students' prior knowledge. Record some questions below.

Step 3: What visual aids could you use to enhance the lesson? How can you demonstrate the concept? Will you need a graphic organizer, dry-erase board, digital platform, or a text to reference? Brainstorm some ideas in the box below.

Step 4: Think about how students will demonstrate their understanding of the skill. Include opportunities for students to repeat key points back to you. How will you incorporate formative assessment?

Remember: *You may want to have students stay to practice when the SGML is over, with you checking in later. Identify what they can do beyond the SGML.* Record your thoughts in the box below.

Step 5: Envision your learning environment and select a location to facilitate your SGML or create an area that is conducive to meeting with a small group. Is there an easel or interactive whiteboard that can be utilized? Can students access the boards easily? Record your ideas and/or drawing in the space below.

One last thought: How will your students be invited or choose to attend the SGML?