

Creating a Class Website
A lesson plan based on the backward design model
developed by Wiggins and McTighe

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Introduction:

This project is a lesson plan designed to teach pre-service teaching students at the University of Texas at Austin how to create basic class websites using Microsoft Word v. X as a web editor. We chose the backward design model developed by Wiggins and McTighe (1998), which centers on the idea that the design process should begin with identifying the desired results and then "working backwards" to develop instruction. We felt that the Wiggins and McTighe model would allow us to develop a lesson plan where students could experience the process of constructing a class web site within a setting that closely resembles the real-world contexts in which the students will apply their understanding. Moreover, we felt that the Wiggins and McTighe model is uncomplicated in that it emphasizes the main idea or big picture and allows designers to distinguish between that which is very important and that which requires only general familiarity. From a classroom perspective, we appreciate the opportunities for student-centered learning that the Wiggins and McTighe model provides and found it to be an ideal model since class discussion and project-based learning activities are central to our lesson plan. In terms of assessment, we found that the objectives of our lesson plan align very well with the six facets of understanding presented by Wiggins and McTighe, and thus, the model allowed us to develop an assessment plan that was a natural extension of the learning environment and the learning experiences it provides.