



OOMPA: Five Easy Ideas for Structuring a Lecture

Do students have trouble following or understanding your lecture? Do you worry you might be leaving important information out? There are ways to provide students information about the structure of your lecture that will facilitate their learning.

Begin your lecture with these five slides: **O**bjectives, **O**verview, **M**otivation, **P**rerequisites, and **A**genda.

Objectives

Objectives describe what you expect your students to learn from your lecture. They are like a roadmap to people who are expected to arrive at a specific destination. Here is an example of an objective for a Health Policy course:

*Objective: State how these three ideas about health policy affect clinical practice:
1) high quality medicine, 2) rationing, and 3) cost control.*

Notice that the way the objective is written looks an awful lot like a test item. In fact, objectives should describe the test. Each lecture will most likely have several objectives, but only one goal. Goals are more general than objectives, and describe the lecture as a whole. Here is the goal that might go with the objective described above:

Goal: Today you will learn how health policy affects clinical practice.

Listing the objectives helps students know what they should get out of the lecture. The objectives slide goes just after the title slide or the motivation slide (see below).

Overview

An overview of the lecture content lists the main ideas to be presented. Here is an example of an overview for a Health Policy course:

Overview: Access to Health Care, Paying for Health Care, Quality of Health Care

An overview helps students follow the lecture by providing a scaffold on which the lecture is built. Select only the main ideas so students can remember them. Do not overburden them with a long list or outline of ideas. Put the outline in the course pack instead of in your slides.

Motivation

Motivation describes to students why they might want to learn the information in your lecture, or the impact the lecture material might have on them individually. Here is an example of a motivation slide:

Motivation: You will be in clinical practice in a few years. Here is how the changes in health policy might affect you.

Make the motivation something real life, something immediate or soon. You might put the motivation slide right after the objectives slide, or even right after the title slide.

Prerequisites

Prerequisites describe the knowledge learners are expected to have before the lecture begins. An example of prerequisites for a course could be the knowledge learned in a previous course.

Check that learners already know the concepts and terms you expect them to know, and briefly explain them if learners do not know them. This slide should come before the lecture proper.

Agenda

An agenda lists the order of events in the lecture. Here is an example of an agenda:

Agenda: Today I will explain xxx. During this time I will present three cases and ask you to identify the best solution.

You may also want to indicate how long each event is expected to take. Providing an agenda gives students more of a feeling of being in control because they know what comes next.

Use OOMPA as a mnemonic to help you remember these five slides. Giving OOMPA information at the beginning of your lecture will enable students to follow it more easily and will give you more peace of mind.