

Unit 1: Aqua Bodies
Mini Lesson - Learner Training

Setting:

- Middle school biology class
- Public or private school classroom

Learners:

- 25-30 middle school biology students
- Ages range from 14-17 years old
- Majority are English language learners
 - various L1s and home countries
 - many demonstrate high proficiency English speaking skills

Class duration:

- 50 minutes

Previous class:

NA - First part of class can be icebreakers/introductions of T's choosing

Materials: Teacher's Guide to Learner Training, Needs Assessment Survey, Student Survey Reflection/Goal Setting				
Task	Teacher (T) Behavior	Student (S) Behavior	Outcomes	Time
1 – Learner Training – Learning Styles	-Preface survey with explanation of learning styles/preferences -Emphasize need to take time, thoughtfulness with answers -Handout survey -Circulate, troubleshoot as needed -Collect surveys -Assign reflection for HW	-Listen and ask questions as needed -Work through survey, considering each question carefully; should not hesitate to ask for clarification or examples -Once finished, start HW (Reflection)	-Ss will gain an awareness of the existence of different learning styles -Ss will gain a metacognitive understanding of themselves as learners	20 mins

Post-Survey Phase: Outside of class, T enters data into Microsoft Excel spreadsheet, use Excel (see Appendix B), or any format of your choosing, to visually organize results in graphs, charts, etc. Materials: Needs Assessment Results (see above), and Reflection/Goal Setting				
2 - Learner Reflection and Training	-Present data to class -Depending on results, discuss what different learning styles mean -Brainstorm ways of improving personal and class-wide learning experience -Direct Ss to complete reflection/goal setting for HW; tell them it will be collected and then discussed at end of year	-Consider where one personally falls in the data presented -Brainstorm ways of improving personal and class-wide learning experience; share in partners then as class -Complete reflection/goal setting for HW; this will be collected and discussed at end of year	-Ss will set goals for the coming school year -Ss will make predictions about the outcome of said goals -Ss will consider how their learning styles have affected their academic experience/learning thus far	20 mins
End of Year				
3 – Reflection - Goal Achievement/Setting	-Hand back surveys and reflections from beginning of year -Direct Ss to reflect and complete	-Reflect and Complete “Student Reflection/GoalSetting - End of Year”	-Ss will reflect on their predictions from the beginning of the year -Ss will reflect on how well they have achieved their goals; based on this knowledge they will also set goals for the coming school year	15 mins

Teacher's Guide to Learner Training

- A helpful link for learning styles and learner awareness is:
 - <http://www.au.af.mil/au/awc/awcgate/awcestdy.htm#learningstyle>
 - There are around 70 different identified learning styles, but the most common break-down designates three learning styles: kinesthetic (hands-on learners), visual (learn best by seeing), and auditory (learn best by hearing).
- Guide to Excel Graph Maker:
 - Step 1: Get your data into Excel. First, you need to input your data into Excel.
 - Step 2: Choose a type of chart/graph to create.
 - Step 3: Switch axes, if necessary.
 - Step 4: Adjust your labels and legends, if desired.
 - Step 5: Change the Y axis measurement options, if desired.
 - Step 6: Reorder data, if desired.
- If you are struggling with these directions, YouTube has many helpful tutorials.

Student Survey

1. What languages do you know or have you known in the past? *Example: Spanish, English, French etc.*

Show how much you agree or disagree with the following statements by circling the words in one the boxes.

Example: I remember things best when I study by myself.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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2. I really enjoy working in a group with other students.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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3. I remember new words best when they are written on the whiteboard.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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4. I study best by making drawings and diagrams about what I am learning.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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5. I remember things longer when I read about them in a book rather than hearing about them in class.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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6. I get a deeper understanding of things when I work by myself.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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7. To understand what I am studying, I will read anything I can find.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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8. I am not a great speller in any language.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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9. I get more work done when I work alone.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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10. I like to learn a new topic through acting it out (a play or playing charades).

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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11. My friends tell me I'm a good listener.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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12. Working with other students in groups is a lot of fun.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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13. I like to talk with my hands and move around when talking about a new topic.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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14. When I do work from a textbook, I like to copy out the whole sentence or passage for extra practice.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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15. Working in groups helps me learn how to get along with others.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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16. I really enjoy making things for a class project.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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17. I don't think I need the help of others: I can do class work by myself.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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18. I learn a lot from doing something instead of reading about it in a book or hearing about it in class.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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19. I like to learn things by listening to music, stories or the news.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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Please choose one answer by checking one item in each of the following:

20. My strongest skill in English is (please check one):

_____Listening _____Reading _____Writing _____Speaking

21. My weakest skill in English is (please check one):

_____Listening _____Reading _____Writing _____Speaking

22. The skill I most want to improve in English is (please check one):

_____Listening _____Reading _____Writing _____Speaking

End of Survey

Thank you so much for your participation! We really appreciate it.

Student Survey Reflection/Goal Setting

In complete sentences, please answer the questions below. This paper will be collected and handed back to you at the end of the year.

Student Reflection/Goal Setting - Beginning of Year

1. Name three things you learned about yourself as a student from this survey/discussion.
2. List three steps you will take to become a stronger student.
3. What differences do you expect to see in yourself as a student after making the changes above?

Student Reflection/Goal Setting - End of Year

1. Name three things you learned about yourself as a student this year.
2. How successful were you in following the steps listed above?
3. What differences do you see in yourself as a student?
4. List three further improvements/adjustments (goals) you would like to make in the coming school year.