

# GED 2002 Lesson Plan

## GOALS/OBJECTIVES:

Students will learn the importance of word choice to prepare for the essay portion of the GED Language arts test.

## LESSON OUTLINE:

**Introduction** - Show a segment of the commercial video *“The Great Outdoors”* when actor John Candy is chased by a bear into his cabin. As a class, discuss his ineffective communication efforts to convey the seriousness of the situation to his family who unaware of the bear. [His few simple words uttered under duress fail to adequately describe the bear or his dangerous circumstances].

**Discussion** - Discuss the importance of word choice to facilitate clear, effective communication.

**Writing Assignment** - As a class (or in cooperative learning groups), ask the class to write a paragraph with the topic sentence “It was a hot day.” Instruct the students to make their paragraph boring and nondescriptive by using mundane and over-generalized words (such as, “It was so hot, you couldn’t believe it.”) Then ask the class to rewrite their paragraphs using more descriptive words, examples, metaphors, etc. Read the two versions aloud and compare them. Discuss the importance of details and vocabulary in writing in order to increase understanding.

**Overhead Projector** - Using a transparency on an overhead projector, read a selection from a textbook or novel where all descriptive words and phrases (such as adjectives, similes, metaphors, etc.) have been removed. Select an author, such as Ray Bradbury, who is known for descriptive writing. On another transparency, read the same selection in its original form. Discuss the differences in the two versions of the author’s writing and how word choice improves a writer’s communication to the reader.

**Synonym Activity** - Make a list on the whiteboard of some of the most common words used to describe the many diverse human emotions, such as: mad, happy, sad, afraid, worried, surprised, etc. Assign the class to write more descriptive synonyms for these words.

[Note: This same assignment could be used for common verbs].

**Writing Assignment /Evaluation Activity** - Ask each student to orally share a memory about school when they were a child. Encourage the rest of the class to ask the students questions so as to help the speaker remember more details about the experience. After each student has the opportunity to speak, have them write about their experiences encouraging them to pay close attention to detail and word choice. The teacher could be the first one to relate an experience so as to model this activity for the class.

[Note: If the class is large, this activity could be done in cooperative learning groups].

**Real-Life Connection** - Have the class design an advertising brochure on computer for the school by writing about their educational successes and experiences in the adult high school, paying close attention to their word choice. The class could select well-stated excerpts from each student's writing to be placed in the brochure with their pictures as "testimonials."

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**Materials Needed:**

Video, *The Great Outdoors*  
Overhead transparencies and projector  
Whiteboard or chalkboard  
Computer Lab

**ESOL Accommodations:**

Video presentation  
Cooperative Learning groups  
Teacher modeling  
Overhead Projector  
Computer with "Spell Check" etc. for aids in writing