

# How to Design Gold Seal Lessons



*How to Design Gold Seal Lessons* is a professional development manual that will help teachers create rigorous and relevant lessons that focus on the skills and knowledge which are most critical for students to master. The most critical standards are the ones assessed by high-stakes tests and the one considered most useful to graduates in their post-school lives, known as Essential Skills.

## What are Gold Seal Lessons?

Gold Seal Lessons are tasks that are strategically designed to teach to specific academic standards/performance indicators/objectives/benchmarks.

Each Gold Seal Lesson is centered around a highly motivating theme, activity or project. Most Lessons are multidisciplinary and deal with real-world situations. Each Lesson includes a scoring guide to assess learning progress.

This data-rich book contains the English, math and science Essential Skills in two formats:

- the topics ranked in priority order
- the topics as typically grouped in standards documents

Since 1999, 20,000 people have responded to the Curriculum Survey of Essential Skills by identifying the top 35 topics in terms of what a high school graduate should know and be able to do.

## The design guide includes:

- instructions on how to write Gold Seal Lessons
- materials for staff development programs
- lists of Essential Skills
- a collection of scoring guide templates on CD
- sample Gold Seal Lessons.

## Order Form

This design guide is a companion to *Using Gold Seal Lessons to Improve Instruction*, which contains 360 lessons in English language arts, mathematics and science for grades K-4, 5-8 and 9-12.

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### Contents of the Electronic Disk

- Gold Seal Lesson Design Template
- Scoring Guide Templates
  - Holistic
  - Analytic-Basic Version
  - Analytic-Variation 1
  - Analytic-Variation 2
  - Analytic-Variation 3
  - Checklist-Variation 1
  - Checklist-Variation 2
  - Checklist-Variation 3
- Instructional Focus Statements
- Essential Skills
  - English Language Arts by Topic
  - English Language Arts by National Rank
  - Mathematics by Topic
  - Mathematics by National Rank
  - Science by Topic
  - Science by National Rank