

## **Preparing Instructional Objectives: A Critical Tool in the Development of Effective Instruction, 3<sup>rd</sup>**

By Robert F. Mager. Atlanta, GA: CEP Press (1997), 193 pages, ISBN: 1-879-618-036. \$20

**Subject:** How to be a better teacher

**Useful for:** Useful for teachers interested in pedagogical design and looking to improve their instruction.

**Format:** Chapters with index and practice exercises.

### **Reviewer's Comments:**

When librarians are searching for materials regarding instructional design, they usually find books that cover a range of tasks such as constructing the syllabus, developing lectures, discussions and testing materials. Within that coverage, they may find a discussion albeit brief on course objectives.

Preparing Instructional Objectives centers on constructing effective course objectives. Generally, an instructor aims to create objectives that provide students with an idea of both the material covered in the class and the skills that they are expected to acquire by the end of the course. The author of this title takes on a light hearted approach to this subject as he offers a blueprint for building course objectives.

The reader will find the essence of this title within Chapters 3 – 7. These chapters discuss and analyze different types of objectives, components of both effective and flawed objectives. Helpful tips are interspersed throughout the book. They can be read along with the text or at a later time. In addition, the author provides exercises that help reinforce concepts covered in the book.

The central theme of this title is that clear and concise course objectives serve as the core of a course. They not only serve as a guide to the student but also the professor as they choose course material, lecture topics and learning assessment methods. As a result, the instruction is more valuable.

I would recommend this title to a librarian who is teaching or designing a research course for the first time. It is also helpful to the experienced librarian instructor as a refresher.

Teachers of many disciplines and education levels have referred to Preparing Instructional Objectives for over 50 years. The most recent edition (3rd) is available separately or as a part of a set of six books written by the author titled The New Mager Six-Pack. Each title in this package covers an aspect of instruction including examining student performance, creating goals and engaging student learners.

**Reviewed by:** Gail Mathapo, University of Florida Legal Information Center, in 2018.