

METHODOLOGY HUB by Jim Scrivener

Activity route map

Here is a basic route map plan for running a simple activity.

In some bigger activities, there may be a number of clearly separate 'sections' within the task, in which case you would go through steps 3, 4 and 5 a few times.

1. Before the lesson: Familiarise yourself with the material and activity; prepare any materials or texts you need.
2. In class: Prepare for the activity.
3. Set up the activity (or section of activity), i.e. give instructions, make groupings, etc.
4. Run the activity (or section): Students do the activity, maybe in pairs or small groups while you monitor and help.
5. Close the activity (or section) and invite feedback from the students.
6. Post-activity: Do any appropriate follow-on work.

Here is some advice for step 1 in more detail:

- Familiarise yourself with the material and the activity.
- Read through the material and any teacher's notes.
- Try the activity yourself.
- Imagine how it will look in class.
- Decide how many organisational steps are involved.
- What seating arrangements/rearrangements are needed?
- How long will it probably take?
- Do the learners know enough language to be able to make a useful attempt at the activity?
- What help might they need?
- What questions might they have?

- What errors (misunderstanding the task) are they likely to make?
- What will your role be at each stage?
- What instructions are needed?
- How will they be given (explained, read, demonstrated)?
- Prepare any aids or additional material.
- Arrange seating, visual aids, etc.
- Most importantly, you need to think through any potential problems or hiccups in the procedures. For example, what will happen if you plan student work in pairs, but there is an uneven number of students? Will this student work alone, or will you join in, or will you make one of the pairs into a group of three?