

Common Learning Outcome Writing Errors

PITFALLS Statements are	UNACCEPTABLE The student will	IMPROVED When you have earned credit for this course, you will have demonstrated an ability to
Written to reflect specific content.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the levels of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. List and describe the signs and symptoms of heart failure. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Use theories of motivation to interpret human behaviour in non-stressful situations. Link signs and symptoms of heart failure to pathological processes.
Not written as an outcome but as a goal or a process.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Engage in learning about the role of experience in learning. Appreciate the importance of personal responsibility in mature human sexuality. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare a personal portfolio that identifies specific learning acquired through experience. Explain clearly the relationship between personal values and attitudes and mature human sexuality.
Not realistic.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> List the chemical symbol and valences of all the known elements. List all the regulations that relate to child care delivery services. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Write and interpret equations to represent chemical reactions that maintain acid base balance. Access and accurately interpret legislation related to typical problems that occur in child care programs.
Too narrow so that learning is not sufficiently transferable.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the functions of MS Word 2003. Deliver a presentation on the merits of equity legislation. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Use word-processing software to prepare reports and correspondence. Make presentations that address different perspectives on equity issues.
Trite or inconsequential and do not describe significant learning.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Outline the contribution of Stanley Burke to Canadian broadcasting. Make accurate calculations of revenues versus expenditures for small business bookkeeping. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Draw accurate conclusions about the roles of charisma and personal agendas in Canadian broadcasting. Display balance sheets that provide accounting information that is accurate and easy to read.
Descriptive of learning which is not verifiable.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Improve his or her understanding of the laws of electricity. Promote customer service as the key to effective marketing. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Use the laws of electricity to explain the viability of particular circuitry in specific applications. Plan specific marketing strategies that emphasize customer service.
Dependent on the teaching process or the way the material is taught.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Report on the results of an experiment conducted to demonstrate the effects of inadequate insulation. Prepare a defensible argument to support one of the positions taken on euthanasia in the film "A Time to Die." 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Choose and apply the appropriate sealing agents to ensure optimal air circulation. Present arguments on both sides of the euthanasia issue.
Dependent on the environment in which the learning occurs.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Administer and record medications according to the policy of the Civic Hospital. Defend the service and warranty policies and practices of Northern Telecom. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Administer and record medications safely respecting legal guidelines. Explain the relationship between costs and risk factors and service and warranty policies of technological industries.