

# What is the purpose of Learning objectives... How should they be formed?

## Learning objectives...

- **DO NOT**
  - relay *instructional activities*
  - describe *activities* that students will complete
- **THEY DO**
  - describe the specific *learning outcomes* of an instructional session
  - describe the *conditions* under which the learning occurs
  - describe the *criteria* of success

## EXAMPLE: Objective or Not? If not, how can we make it an objective?

- Students will create a concept map showing relationships among concepts in the water cycle (e.g., precipitation, evaporation, etc.)

Activity deliverable focus, not written as a learning outcome

**Not quite an objective.**

**Restated as an objective:** *Students will be able to describe the relationships among concepts in the water cycle.*

- Students will learn how to create an excel database  
**Not an objective UNLESS**, this is a computer course were the expected learning subject matter outcome is databases.

**Better stated as an objective:** *Students will be able to create an excel database using multiple features of the MS excel database software including ... (add features and other criteria)*

- Students will create a blog on their work in the course
- Students will use a wiki in collaboration with others to write a play from the book Red Badge of Courage.

**Not quite objectives.**

**Restated as objectives:**

*Students will describe the relationships among the concepts (list them) of this unit by showcasing models or concept maps in an open forum where others can provide comment (e.g., blog, wiki, etc.).*

*Students will describe the key themes of the book the Red Badge of Courage by collaboratively writing a play that illustrates one or more of the following themes.. (list them).*

The conditions and criteria to assess the learning are ...

The learning outcome is about the relationships between the key concepts presented in the lesson

The learning outcomes are about the themes in the book..