Have you ever been in a class working on an activity but you weren’t quite sure **why** you were working on it or **what** you were supposed to be learning?

Was there ever a time when you didn’t quite know what you had to do to be successful?

There are a lot of students who would answer **yes** to those questions, which is why we are talking about **learning intentions** and **success criteria**.

Learning intentions and success criteria help you know what to do and how your learning is going.
What Are Learning Intentions and Success Criteria?

**Learning Intention**

A learning intention is what you are supposed to learn after the lesson is over. A learning intention isn’t what you are DOING; it is what you are LEARNING.

**Success Criteria**

There are steps you must take to learn the learning intention, like the steps on a ladder that you climb. These steps are called success criteria.

Let’s look at a sample learning intention and success criteria to better understand what they are.

**Learning Intention**

*Today we are learning to describe a character in depth using key details from the story.*

**Success Criteria**

1. *I can identify five key details about the character in the story.*

2. *I can determine what each detail shows about the character.*

3. *I can use each key detail to describe the character.*
How can knowing the **learning intentions** and **success criteria** for the lesson support your learning?
Learning intentions and success criteria are like a map for your learning. They help you figure out which way to go so you can get to where you need to be.

Sometimes we don’t have a clear destination for what we are learning, why we are learning it, and how we will be successful. That’s where learning intentions and success criteria come in.

You can practice by using the table on the next page.
Learning Intentions and Success Criteria Self-Assessment

Date: ____________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What you are learning about today?</th>
<th>I have done this a lot before.</th>
<th>I have done this a little before.</th>
<th>This will be new for me.</th>
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Is there anything that doesn’t make sense or is unclear to you? Do you know what all of the words mean? Put any questions you have below.

1. **What words or phrases are unclear?**

2. **What do I think they might mean?**
Turn to a peer and share what you wrote in your self-assessment and why you checked the choices you did.

Notes:

Next, talk about any words and phrases that were unclear and what you think they mean.

Notes:
What actions can you take on your own or with your peers or teacher to ensure you understand the learning intention(s) of each lesson?