**Reflection on INTASC 7: Planning for Instruction**

Although students often find a way to move the class discussion into topics not covered on the lesson plan, the planning of lessons is essential to good teaching. When a teacher knows the needs of their students and plans accordingly both parties benefit. The seventh INTASC principle is crucial to teaching as it ensures the teacher is proficient in planning lessons based on the individual needs of students, and that teachers are working toward satisfying the curriculum goals. Planning for a lesson allows a student to address the individual needs of students; in a classroom of twenty-five students there will students on very different levels of proficiency. In a classroom where all students are expected to read on grade level, or write essays frequently the students that are not capable of such activities would fall behind. Planning the lesson to meet the needs of students will allow the teacher to give each student the tools they need to learn. Also, by planning lessons before the class starts, the teacher will be able to ensure their lesson meets curriculum guidelines and works toward goals.

Lessons plans are important in all subject areas, and English is no exception. While some may not think reading a novel in class warrants a lesson plan, the inclusion of one could allow the teacher to regain composure and remember their purpose if events do not go as planned. For instance, if a teacher has planned thirty minutes of reading in their classroom they may soon realize that the students are unable or willing to read for such an extended period. If the teacher had not completed a lesson plan, the remainder of the class could be wasted. Students may be told to sit quietly, or work on homework for another class. If the teacher had a lesson plan, however, there would be alternate activities planned for the students in the event that something did not go as planned. The students would complete the alternate activities and no time would be wasted. Ensuring the direction of the classroom is always known and that activities are working toward the curriculum goals are very important. Using a lesson plan allows teachers to plan accordingly.