

TIPS ON FOCUSING YOUR CURRICULUM USING THE PROPOSITIONAL TEACHING METHOD

**CURRICULUM WRITING: BUILDING ON WHAT YOU KNOW AND DO
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WHAT IS THE PROPOSITIONAL TEACHING METHOD?

Propositional Teaching is a method of writing curriculum developed by **DR. REBECCA DAVIS**, the Sarah Belk Gambrell Professor in Christian Education, Director of the Master of Arts in Christian Education Program, and Director of the Center for Excellence in Christian Education at Union Presbyterian Seminary. Dr. Davis developed this method based on the teachings of Dr. Isaac Rufus Clark and Dr. Katie Geneva Cannon.

HOW DOES THE PROPOSITIONAL TEACHING METHOD WORK?

Propositional Teaching asks three questions in developing curriculum:

- **WHAT** truth do we need to understand about this scripture or theme?
- **HOW** is this truth demonstrated?
- **WHY** is this truth important to our faith, our Church, our community, the world?

These three questions are used to form a one-sentence Teaching Proposition that guides curriculum development, provides focus for teaching and organizes the lesson plan.

HOW IS A TEACHING PROPOSITION DIFFERENT FROM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES?

A Teaching Proposition is more focused than a list of Goals and Objectives. Goals and Objectives can include anything related to the scripture or theme being studied. This can lead to a disjointed lesson that goes in too many different directions and doesn't get any points across clearly. A Teaching Proposition requires the curriculum writer to hone in on one main point, which gives purpose and organization to the lesson plans.

WHAT ARE THE COMPONENTS OF A LESSON PLAN USING THE PROPOSITIONAL TEACHING METHOD?

1. Gathering Rituals,
2. Teaching the **WHAT** of the proposition,
3. Teaching the **HOW** of the proposition,
4. Teaching the **WHY** of the proposition,
5. Creating space for the **DISCERNING HOW** – the time when participants reflect on how they will live out this learning
6. Sending Rituals.

HOW CAN I ADAPT MY EXISTING BIBLE STUDY?

- Determine the main point of the study or the main idea you want to get across to participants by selecting one of the goals or objectives in your existing curriculum or by evaluating the study as a whole for important points.
- Create a Teaching Proposition with a clear **WHAT**, a clear **HOW**, and a clear **WHY**.
- Arrange the learning activities of your curriculum so that they fit with and support the components of a Propositional Teaching Method lesson plan including Gathering Rituals, the **WHAT**, the **HOW**, the **WHY**, the **DISCERNING HOW**, and Sending Rituals.