

TEACHER PLANNING GUIDE

The following chart breaks down each section into topics and activities along with time estimates. Each lesson is designed as a standalone so that you can mix and match content to suit your needs. Here are some examples of how you might want to present this information in class:

1. Pick a Topic of the Month and present a lesson every few days.
2. Do one topic from each section every few days.
3. Set aside an entire week to present all of the material for what we call “FocusWeek.” This can be accomplished with about 1-1/2 hours of class time each day for 5 days and can be a great way to start the school year or a semester.
4. Take as little or as long as you want with this curriculum. The most important part is to integrate the skills into your everyday teaching methods. Make being a *Skilled Student* part of your school’s culture!

Including parents is an important part of this process as well. That’s because we want them to reinforce these skills at home. *The Skilled Student Initiative* is founded on the principle that executive functioning skills are strengthened when practiced across all areas of life. To help make that easier, you will find Parent Handouts arranged by topic at the end of this guide. The handouts provide a Parent Focus activity or topic to discuss for each activity you do in class. As with the curriculum, feel free to mix and match what you send home and how you send it based on how you use this material. You can send a topic at a time or the entire sheet. Another idea is to hold parent workshops to review all the information, then send current activities each week. Whatever you do, please include parents to achieve the strongest results for *The Skilled Student Initiative*.

**SECTION 4 – READING COMPREHENSION**

Section	Step	Activity	Time	Materials
Reading	1	Teach the “T.H.I.E.V.E.S Pre-Reading Technique”	10 min	Handout
Reading	2	Practice T.H.I.E.V.E.S using a relevant textbook	10 min	Textbook
Reading	3	Rapid-fire review of T.H.I.E.V.E.S letters and meanings	5 min	None
Flashcards	4	Take notes during student discussion and turn notes into flashcards	10 min	Notebook, index cards
Thomas Edison	5	Read and highlight the “History of Thomas Edison” handout in pairs	20 min	Handout, highlighters
Thomas Edison	6	Students present their section to the class	10 min	Notes
Thomas Edison	7	Students create flashcards for their section	10 min	Index cards
Thomas Edison	8	Continue the Thomas Edison activity on the following day	20 min	Handout, flashcards
Thomas Edison	9	Quiz the class using flashcards	10 min	Flashcards

SECTION 4 – NOTE-TAKING SKILLS

Section	Step	Activity	Time	Materials
Note-Taking	1	Use “How to Take Good Notes” worksheet and complete exercise	10 min	Worksheet
Note-Taking	2	Teach how and why we take notes	5 min	None
Note-Taking	3	Introduce basic flashcard format	5 min	Index cards