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Quickwrite

Robert Gagne was an educational psychologist who is mostly responsible for what it means to have good instruction. He understood that not everyone learns the same way and therefore different instruction is needed to accommodate that. A good instruction makes for good learning. Gagne’s work began during World War II when he worked with aircraft crews and realized the need for effective training.

Down the road Gagne developed his Nine Steps of Instruction which identified events that need to take place for learning to happen. The first step is to gain attention. Also known as an attention getter, the instructor needs to present something to the student that will draw them in and catch their attention so they are more likely to continue paying attention when the lesson actually begins. The second step is to tell the learner the learning objective. This means that the instructor needs to tell the students what they are supposed to be learning. The instructor is providing the goals of the lesson. The third step is stimulating recall of prior knowledge. The instructor now is asking the student to recall pervious knowledge related to the subject and informing the student that they will now build onto that knowledge.

Step four is to present the material. Now the instructor must present the lesson. Step five is providing guidance for learning. This is when the instructor needs to lead the student through the lesson. This is the instructor’s chance to teach the student the correct way to avoid wasted time the student might spend learning something incorrectly. Step six is eliciting performance. This is the time for the student to demonstrate that they have understood the lesson by performing the new skills or knowledge.

Step seven, provide feedback. The instructor now needs to provide very specific feedback. Specifically assess the skill or knowledge the student just presented and critique it. A quiz or test is an easy way to do this. Step eight is assessing the performance. This is more feedback for the student on their performance. Step nine is enhance retention and transfer. The instructor now needs to provide parallel situations for the student to apply their new knowledge and also guide them to similar situations.

Gagne’s Nine Steps of Instruction helped provide a new system of instruction to make sure that learning is achieved. Gagne understood that the purpose of good instruction is learning and by altering instruction, the student has a better chance of learning.