

Old Dominion University  
Graduate Teaching Assistant Institute

**Mini-Lesson Guidelines  
For Graduate Teaching Assistants**

All new Graduate Teaching Assistants are being asked to develop and present an 8-10 minute lesson to a small group of fellow GTAs and a faculty group leader on Wednesday, August 20th. The faculty member and the group will provide brief written and oral feedback to each presenter.

- A. The opportunity for you to present a brief lesson and receive feedback during the Institute is included in the activities for several reasons. It provides:
- An opportunity to apply some of the approaches suggested by the Thursday presentations at the Institute;
  - Feedback about your performance, highlighting strengths and weaknesses;
  - Opportunities to observe, critique, and learn from the teaching presentations of others.
- B. The lesson should last 8 to 10 minutes (***maximum***). Although the time is short, the lesson should demonstrate your ability to:
- Convey and be focused around particular instructional objectives;
  - Be well organized;
  - Utilize examples, illustrations (drawings, diagrams, models, etc.) or instructional media effectively;
  - If at all possible, in the limited time frame, engage the group in some way.
- C. The topic is your choice. It would probably be more meaningful and useful if you choose a topic you are likely to have to teach or work with in your new responsibilities.
- Aim your lesson at the level you will be teaching; For example, at an introductory level for freshmen or sophomores.
  - Consult faculty in your department (i.e., Graduate Program Director or Departmental Advisor) or advanced GTAs for assistance, if desired.

**NOTE:** Media equipment will be available in each room.