

For this assignment, we were asked to plan out a personal IEP (Individualized Education Plan) during which we were to become familiar with an educational technology that directly relates to our content area. I chose to familiarize myself with the TED-Ed Lessons resource. With the help of this website, educators can optimize existing lessons for their classroom, or create a whole new lesson. For the purpose of developing my knowledge of this website, I both created a lesson and optimized a lesson for my classroom.

The lesson I created was based off my Digital Story video. To view this completed lesson, click [here](#). This software is very user friendly, and educators can create lessons in a few easy steps. Along with the movie, your lesson plan can include (or exclude) a set of questions for the students, links to encourage future research, discussion questions, and questions for your students to ponder after they have left class. I included all of these in this lesson plan, creating questions to be completed in class, discussions that could be done as a small group or a whole class, and an opportunity for student reflection.

The lesson I optimized was based off Schrodinger's question, "is the cat alive or dead"? My completed lesson can be viewed [here](#). The TED-Ed video associated with this lesson explains the theory behind the question, which can lead to many in-depth critical thinking prompts. When optimizing a lesson, educators are able to use existing questions and prompts as well as add questions that might be more relevant within their classroom. Educators can also edit the other sections of the lesson, giving the students options for further research and critical thinking questions. The benefit of choosing to optimize rather than creating one is that the resources are already laid out for you, all you have to do is pick which parts of the lesson you want to use or expand on and voila! You have a lesson!

Another possible use of this resource could be to ask students to create a TED-Ed lesson and present it to the class. The rubric could include the required number of questions and other elements the students need to incorporate when creating the lesson. TED-Ed lessons can be based off any YouTube video, this assignment could be used as an assessment in any content area, at any grade level.

I would highly recommend Ted-Ed Lessons resource to any teacher looking to develop web-based lessons. I have experimented with a few other websites geared towards lesson creation, but all of them either cost money or are trying to sell you their product. TED-Ed lessons are free, customizable, and the possibilities are endless.