

**Minutes for the TOPSS Committee Zoom Meeting
July 17, 2023, 7:30 PM Eastern time**

Participating on call: Terri Lindenberg, Virginia Welle, Dana Melone, Natasha Alson, Julie Gowans, Emily Polacek, Melissa Rogers, Jennifer Thompson, Debra Kawahara, Jenni Redifer, Emily Leary Chesnes, Aliza Epstein, Sue Orsillo

Unable to participate: Tony Puente

TOPSS Lesson Plan Discussion

The Committee was asked to consider what unmet need TOPSS is trying to address by creating, revising, and disseminating lesson plans and what the goal should be of this initiative. Issues discussed included the following:

- There was agreement the Committee did not want to get rid of the lesson plans. Teachers are still looking for labs and teaching activities. Reminding teachers about the activities database was suggested.
- Addendums could be added to the lesson plans, assuming the material provided is still accurate. The addendums could refer to the revised *National Standards*.
- The lesson plans support the credibility of high school psychology. Any updates should be made to reflect new research or new understandings.
- We need to define what we mean by adjusting existing lesson plans. The 2022 standards and pillars need to be addressed. Any incorrect content should be edited out.
- Lesson plans for new teachers are helpful, especially in providing ideas for labs or activities.
- It was noted that college faculty value the lesson plans.
- Transparency is key with whatever we do. We should let teachers know that TOPSS is always working towards the goal of providing accurate and up-to-date material.
- The Committee needs to consider what is essential about the lesson plans. APA will keep producing what teachers need.
- Questions to consider include who is going to do this work? How can we fix lesson plan formatting?
- One option could be to add text at the top of current lesson plans stating that they are aligned to the old standards, and provide a link to the new standards so people can look at the differences for themselves.
- APA and TOPSS serve a unique role in supporting on-level psychology teachers and providing national curriculum standards for the course.

Next steps: Committee members will each review one or two lesson plans before the August call and come to the call ready to continue this discussion. Another possible next step could be to survey members on how they use the lesson plans.

Breakout Room Discussion: TOPSS subcommittees

EDI Subcommittee

The subcommittee discussed the proposed instructions for the EDI resources. There was agreement that the instructions were good and that students may also have ideas on how the materials could be used.

Transparency is important and it was noted that this will be a living document. Next steps: The final draft of the EDI work will be shared with the subcommittee and TOPSS for review when completed.

Promoting Psychology and TOPSS Resources Subcommittee

The subcommittee discussed the 2023 TOPSS student competition. The group agreed that the primary goal (to promote an understanding psychology's real-world applications among high school students) was met. The 2023 submissions were impressive and videos were easier to judge than essays. Some of the rules were unclear to students and the weighing of the rubric should be adjusted in the future; these updates should be made soon. Terri noted she wanted to thank the judges from this year's competition. Next steps: Staff and the subcommittee will edit the rules and rubric in the coming weeks and continue to discuss plans for 2024 and beyond.

Next call

The next call will be held August 21, 2023, at 7:30 PM eastern.