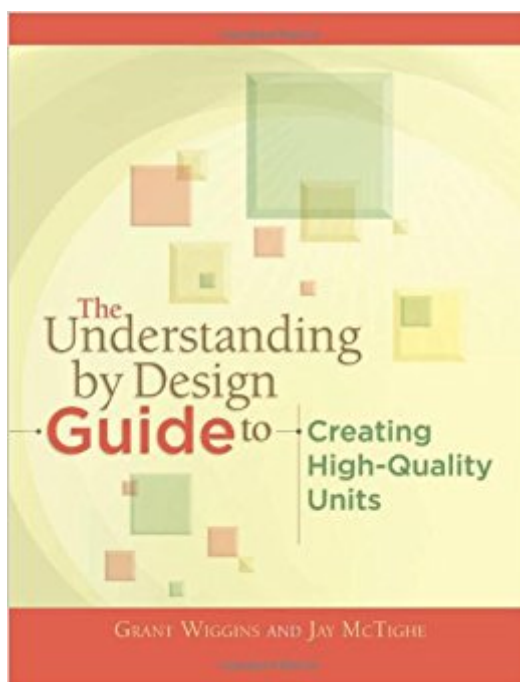


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# The Understanding By Design Guide To Creating High-Quality Units



## Synopsis

Unit creation and planning made easy for Understanding by Design novices and veterans alike! This book introduces version 2.0 of the UbD Template and allows you to download fillable electronic forms to help you more easily incorporate standards, advance your understanding of backward design, and improve student learning.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The Understanding by Design Guide to Creating High-Quality Units offers instructional modules on the basic concepts and elements of Understanding by Design (UbD), the "backward design" approach used by thousands of educators to create curriculum units and assessments that focus on developing students' understanding of important ideas. The eight modules are organized around the UbD Template, version 2.0, and feature components similar to what is typically provided in a UbD design workshop, including

- \* Discussion and explanation of key ideas in the module;
- \* Guiding exercises, worksheets, and design tips;
- \* Examples of unit designs;
- \* Review criteria with prompts for self-assessment; and
- \* A list of resources for further information.

This guide is intended for K 16 educators either individuals or groups who may have received some training in UbD and want to continue their work independently; those who've read Understanding by Design and want to design curriculum units but have no access to formal training; graduate and undergraduate students in university curriculum courses; and school and district administrators, curriculum directors, and others who facilitate UbD work with staff. Users can go through the modules in sequence or skip

around, depending on their previous experience with UbD and their preferred curriculum design style or approach. Unit creation, planning, and adaptation are easier than ever with the accompanying downloadable resources, including the UbD template set up as a fillable PDF form, additional worksheets, examples, and FAQs about the module topics that speak to UbD novices and veterans alike.

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You can tell the quality of ideas by the length of their tail. How long is their reach? Do the ideas branch into other ideas? Do they launch other books? Are people still talking about it 14 years later? Such is the case with Understanding by Design, which later became known as UbD. The concept has even made it into Wikipedia. The basic premise of the book is fairly simple--when it comes to curriculum planning, start with the end mind. Instead of walking your way through a textbook, the best teachers begin by clearly defining what they want their students to know and be able to do by the end of a curriculum unit. This book, however, is more than an idea. It is a combination of theory and practice with loads of helpful graphic organizers so that the concepts can be applied. At times

the book gets a little thick (I am thinking about the six facets of understanding section), but overall, there are several absolute rock star concepts that show why UbD became a best practice over the past decade. These concepts include: breaking down the difference between coverage and uncoverage when it comes to designing curriculum units (p. 131), how and when to use the different types of assessment along with an assessment continuum (p. 12-15), the WHERE framework to check your unit design (p. 129), and a great section on writing essential and unit questions (p. 31). All in all, this book will be a must read for school leaders and teachers who want to ensure their students are receiving a high quality curriculum that is aligned with defined outcomes and contains a host of high quality thoughtful activities. You can probably get a used one on for a penny---now that's value.

I am a planner and this book has SO helped me in my lesson planning. I love it. It provides lesson planning with goals in mind. I have planned better lessons using this book.

A game changer for teachers and administrators committed to creating and revising successful curriculum for students.

Just what I needed to write curriculum this summer. Added it to my ASCD book collection. It contains the UbD template 2.0 our school is using this year. Glad I have a spare copy to keep at home!

Good book, came quickly, and was exactly what I expected, and was pleased with both the product and the seller.

Very Good, well organized...provides examples.....little winding for what is a pretty straight forward system.

All teachers should be required to follow Wiggins and McTighe's design structure of Understanding by Design. This guide helps in the implementation of the backwards design for unit planning.

Great updates to already solid curriculum design. Useful templates, no excessive prose. Highly recommended!

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