Classic Mistakes in Writing Outcome Benchmarks and Criteria for Success

1. The Activity is stated as an outcome.

By June 30, 2009, biology students will receive scientific method instruction.

By June 30, 2009, English students will receive instruction on essay structure.

By June 30, 2009, students enrolled art course receive design instruction.

By June 30, 2009, students in correctional science courses will receive conflict resolution training.

**Hint:** Examples list activities or outputs, not outcomes.

2. Absence of a clear relationship between the outcome and the assessment activity.

By June 30, 2009, correctional science students will develop a conflict resolution plan by completing a questionnaire on law enforcement career selection.

By June 30, 2009, English 1A will raise their essay score levels after reading the college book, the Kite Runner.

By June 30, 2009, Reading 1 students will achieve reading skills at the college and will find employment.

By June 30, 2009, Math students will increase their success and retention rates by receiving a map to the Success Centers.

**Hint:** Create a chain of events from the service or intervention to the outcome, using specific measurement tools and a process to establish a clear relationship.

3. Desired outcome does not occur within the time frame of the assessment plan and therefore cannot be measure within the specified time frame.

By June 30, 2009, Reading students receiving instruction in SQ3R will report that their reading comprehension level is stable a year after the course.

By June 30, 2009, Students completing Math 410 will transfer at the level of Math 25 in one year.

By June 30, 2009, English students will acquire basic writing skills to prepare them for entry into a four year college.

**Hint:** Unless the students were all enrolled on the very first day of the assessment period, we will not be able to conduct follow–up within the stated period. Consider extending the time frame of the assessment plan.

4. Outcome statement or success rate is under or over estimated.

By June 30, 2009, 100% of students will score a 5 on the English 1A final rubric.

By June 30, 2009, 95% of students will show a 10 point increase on the Chemistry post-test.

By June 30, 2009, 5% of history students will show a 2 point increase on the History 17 final embedded assessments.

By June 30, 2009, 1% of Biology students will score 75% on the Biology 1 common final embedded assessment.