

General Goals

1. The plan for this chapter is to learn about:
 - What are general goals
 - How a student writes her general goals
 - Why a student should reflect on her general goals
2. Let's get started! General goals are big learning goals. Setting general goals stimulates the student's self-regulated learning and identifies areas for improvement. Much like the person climbing a mountain where the peak remains the goal: a student thinks about where she wants to be at the end of a school term, year or cycle. These may be considered long term goals.
3. Before a student starts writing her goals in ePEARL, it is helpful to discuss goal setting as a class. Help is always available by clicking on the **question mark** next to the title.
4. On this help screen a student finds: Examples of general goals: "I want to improve my reading by practicing at home and in school. I want to become a better reader so that I can finish a book faster."
5. She can also read **How can I do this?** This section offers suggestions to help a student as she creates her General Goals in ePEARL. In **Learn More** there is a two minute goal-setting video that you can view individually or with the whole class as an introduction on the topic.
6. Let's explore Meg's general goals. She wrote what she wanted to accomplish during the year about a specific skill in different subject areas as well as in general academic skills. For example, she wrote, "This term I would really like to concentrate on improving my time management skills". To add a new general goal, click the blue +.
7. For example, if Megan wants to write a new general goal: "I want to improve my vocabulary in English." She clicks either the **blue diskette** to **save** or the **green "X"** to **cancel** that item. This will not delete any previous items saved on the page. From this page a student can **edit** or **delete** a general goal. The computer automatically adds the date.
9. Every time a student sees the person on the mountain icon (or the button with the title **General Goals** in Level 3) she can revise her general goals either by adding new ones or revising others. It might be helpful to encourage your students to reflect on their general goals a few key times during the school year. This reflection process is important for

students to think about how they are progressing in terms of these goals and if they need to add or revise their general goals.

10. Also, Meg’s teacher provided feedback on Megan’s improvements related to her General Goals. “I would like to see more artifacts in here for Science and Music, but otherwise your portfolio is developing well.”

11. Reflecting: How can you help your students create valuable General Goals?

Tips to work with the class:

- Show examples of what a good general goal can be: “Read a book without pictures”, etc.
- Bring your own experiences about setting personal goals to accomplish something
- Ask for their personal examples (sports, art, or home life)
- Reflect together about the metaphor: climbing the mountain and reaching a distant objective step-by-step.
- Use “SMART” goals – are they:
 - Specific
 - Measurable
 - Aggressive/Attainable
 - Realistic
 - Timely

12. During this chapter you have learned about:

- What are general goals
- How to help a student write general goals
- Aspects of well-written general goals
- The importance of reflecting on and updating general goals

Now it’s your turn! Open your demo account and practice! You can also print the instructions by clicking on the **print** button.