

Goals of Orientation to Pace Programs

It is strongly recommended that time is taken to orient new learners to Pace materials. A Pace System offers a unique method of learning management and instructional design. The main goal of orientation with Pace is to distinguish the Pace System and Method from other instructional materials the student may be familiar with.

There are many features of a Pace program which can help you to distinguish Pace from other learning materials:

- Pace is student-centered; it relies on the learner to shoulder the responsibility of learning. Likewise, when students succeed in a Pace program, they demonstrate the ability to learn and master new skills independently.
- Pace is self-paced; it helps the student to find and maintain their optimal independent learning rate, without pressure to keep up with others or the need to wait on others.
- Pace is fully individualized; students work only in programs assigned to match their personal learning needs.
- In a Pace program, the learner is involved and in control of their own learning. Pace programs are not designed to teach or test learners. Instead, they are designed to help learners teach themselves the skills they need to learn, as quickly and easily as possible.

The orientation script provided on the following pages is designed to offer guidance in orientation to Pace materials. The script is intended to offer useful language for distinguishing Pace from other instructional programs in a positive way.

It is important the script is not read to your students as it is written; instead, it should be adapted to your unique situation, given what you know about your unique learners.

Orientation Script

Introduction

Welcome, class. Today we are starting a new curriculum from Pace Learning Systems, and it is going to work well for you because it was designed specifically for you and your fellow students. The Pace Learning method was developed in a correctional facility to bring success to adult learners. When you have completed this program, you will be capable of learning anything you might want or need to learn, and you will be able to do so independently.

While this program teaches some academic skills you will need moving forward, it also teaches you to learn independently and take responsibility for your own learning. The program is not designed to "test" you. It is designed to direct you quickly to the skills you need to move up the educational ladder, and to help you effectively teach yourself those skills.

What a Pace Learning system offers you is unique. This program is different from traditional classrooms, and it is important that we review how.

How It Works

The first difference is me. Instead of being your teacher, I will now be your Learning Manager. My main role is to be your guide as you learn independently, and to help you manage your learning tasks. I will always give you help when you need it, giving you guidance and support along the way, and I will also manage the classroom and resources.

You will be responsible for taking control of your own learning. You will work through assignments independently, at a speed or pace that is most comfortable for you. There will not be any pressure to keep up" with the group, nor any delay waiting for classmates to keep up with you. You can move successfully through your own program, at your own rate of learning. You should work hard to improve your rate of learning and you should always be consistent in your level of effort. I will assist you in reviewing your work and determining ways to improve.

Each of you will have a personalized plan called a Study Schedule. On the Study Schedule you will find the names of the lessons you will work through to learn the skills you need. We will work together to record your progress on your Study Schedule. This tool will help us keep track of what you are learning and how quickly and effectively you are progressing.

You will not be using a standard textbook. The Pace Learning lessons are designed to guarantee that you succeed, if you use them as directed. Knowledge and skills are taught in a series of small steps, leading you from simple to more complex tasks. The instruction is broken down into small, numbered parts called Frames.

While you are working through a lesson, you will continuously be informed about your progress through a work process called "Read, Write, Check." Self-pacing and self-checking, as directed, you will always know whether you are on the right track for learning. This makes learning easy, fast, and enjoyable and ensures your success.

If you come across a problem or skill that you do not understand, you should first try your best to solve it yourself. I will also work hard to help you understand it. You should never hesitate to ask for help when you need it. If you do not understand something or cannot work through a problem, raise your hand and I will help you. I am here to help you succeed.

Get Commitment

I would like for each of you to make a commitment to this program, just as I am making a commitment to help you in your learning and skills development. We will use the word "Pace" to establish the four ways in which I would like you to commit to this program to ensure you get the most out of your time in class.

- **P = Participation.** *Each of you has already shown some commitment today by being a part of this class, but you must continue to attend regularly. Participation also involves following the directions carefully for working through the lessons, following class rules and procedures, and making sure to ask for help when you need it. Finally, participation means thoughtfully contributing to class discussions when asked.*
- **A = Attitude.** *You must commit to a positive attitude. Showing respect for others property, yourself, and your work demonstrates a positive, productive attitude. Having a willingness to try something new and believing you can learn and succeed will help you get where you want to go. A consistently positive attitude will improve your outcomes dramatically in anything you do.*
- **C = Cooperation.** *This class requires you to cooperate with your teacher and class members. To have the privilege of working in this class, you must demonstrate both responsibility and maturity through cooperation. This also means using the materials as directed.*
- **E = Effort.** *Always do your absolute best. Stay on task, working quickly and quietly, and you will achieve and succeed in this course. As an instructor in this program, I am here to assist you each step along the way. My goal is for you to learn successfully on an independent basis as much as possible; this will give you the confidence you will need to advance beyond this course. Your success will come naturally if you are able to listen well, work hard, and be consistent.*

If we commit to Pace together, I know this program can help each of you achieve your education goals and more. I am confident you will succeed!