1. **STRING OF PEARLS**

   Every instructor point is right on the mark and clearly focused on the objective. This is a rare lesson, but one every excellent teacher attains several times a month. Clarity and efficiency are its hallmarks.

2. **FEW DETOURS**

   Almost all points are directly related to the objective. While a few points made are really tangential to the lesson objective (and thus a bit off-track), most are directly focused on the target objective. Experienced instructors who are good at their jobs teach several of these each day.

3. **MEANDERING PATH**

   Occasionally, the instructor makes a good point focused precisely on the lesson objective. Most of the time, however, things seem related indirectly, but not directly. Students feel lost or are only vaguely aware of the major points being made. Excellent students can figure this lesson out; average and lower students can’t.

4. **BUCKSHOT**

   Also known as “Spray and Pray,” this lesson is one in which the instructor seems clearly headed somewhere, but the destination is indistinguishable to students. The instructor just throws a whole lot of information out there and students are left hoping its relevance and unifying theme will soon become clear. It usually doesn’t. Unfortunately, every instructor finds him- or herself in this rut on occasion—some almost daily!

5. **BIRDWALK**

   Nothing about this lesson makes any sense to anyone, including the instructor. The goal is clear, but the objective is not. Here, lesson outcomes are always a surprise, if not a nightmare. This lesson occurs when the instructor is totally unprepared for the day’s activity. Every instructor remembers at least one of these in his or her career.