

INSTRUCTOR GUIDE LESSON 7: JUDGMENT AND SHOT PLACEMENT

V. 2/2018

Bowhunter Education 2017 Standards – Section 6 Objectives 31, 32, 33, 34, & 35

Instructor Notes

This lesson introduces the students to the knowledge and skills needed to determine safe versus unsafe shots and making the best and most ethical shot for the sake of the animal. This lesson corresponds with Chapter 7 (pgs. 53 - 58) in the Today's Bowhunter student manual. Teach this lesson as part of a Round Robin with a small group (4-8) of students.

Teaching Methods Used In This Lesson

- Lecture
- Discussion
- Student hands-on activity
- Demonstration

Time Suggested

20 Minutes



- Arrow with Field Point
- 3D archery deer target with exposed vitals
- 3D archery turkey target with exposed vitals

Station Set-up 20 minutes

- 1. Have the arrow stationed for easy access.
- 2. Set up 3D targets so they stand broadside to the students with the vital organs hidden.

Vocabulary Builder



Note: Do not read the vocabulary to the students. These are terms commonly used during this lesson, and the definitions are for instructor reference only.

Big game – A classification of legally hunted wild bird or mammal offering a challenge such as deer, bear, and turkey.

Broadside – When an animal is standing perpendicular to the shooter, exposing its entire side.

Clean kill – When a good shot is delivered and the animal dies quickly with as little suffering as possible.

Clear shot – Any shot that is safe and free from obstruction where the animal's vital area is presented to the hunter.

Quartering away – When an animal is angled away from the hunter but has not completely turned so that it is facing directly away from the hunter.

Sky-lined animal – A game animal that is on top of a hill or in such a position that there is nothing behind the animal to stop an arrow in case of a missed shot.

Sound shot – A shot fired at a sound without any other target identification. This is an extremely unsafe practice.

Target identification – The practice of knowing with absolute certainty exactly what a hunter is going to shoot.
Vital area – The part of a game animal targeted for an effective kill including the heart, lungs, liver, and major blood vessels of big game.
"What lies beyond" – The knowledge that the entire path of the shot, including the area beyond the target, is safe.

LESSON PLAN

PART A: Focus Activity 1 minute	The purpose of the focus activity is to get everyone's attention focused on the lesson. Ask: "why would your shot placement on an animal be important?" Follow this question with: "what factors make shot placement more critical with a bow than with a gun?"
PART B: Objectives 1 minute	 State the learning objectives to the students. "At the end of this lesson, you will be able to: list various animal orientations or shot angles; describe why steeper shot angles reduce exposure to vital area; explain how to properly adjust for uphill/downhill shots; list vital organs found in the chest cavity; and identify an aiming spot on an animal diagram for a high percentage shot in the chest cavity."
PART C: Teaching Method Min 16 minutes	 Ask: "what are some things you should consider before taking a shot while bowhunting?" 1. Discuss the primary target for bowhunters and what vital organs are located in the chest cavity: Heart Lungs 2. Discuss the which angles provide the best shots for big game animals with a bow and arrow: Broadside Quartering away

Note: For steps 3 & 4, ask the students to instruct you where to place the arrow in the target. After the arrow is placed through the hole in the target, instructors should turn the target around so that students can see the path of the arrow and what organs would be hit.

- 3. Use the 3D deer target to show the students where the vital organs are located within the chest cavity. At this point use the arrow to identify high percentage shots in the chest cavity from different angles.
 - Broadside
 - Quartering away
 - Broadside from an elevated stand
 - Quartering away from an elevated stand
- 4. Use the 3D deer target to show the students where poor shots and poor shot angles are. Use the arrow and proper holes to demonstrate the following poor shots:
 - Quartering towards
 - Direct shoulder hit
 - Facing away
- 5. Use the 3D deer target to show the students how steep angle shots reduce exposure to the vital organs. Use the following example:
 - When a hunter takes a broadside shot on an animal with proper shot placement the arrow will pass through both lungs. On a steep angle shot, the arrow will only pass through one lung and the animal could travel a long distance before expiring resulting in a long blood trail.
- 6. Pass out the Judgment & Shot Placement Student Handout. Instruct students to aim for the horizontal distance to a target, not the line-of-sight distance, while taking uphill and

	downhill shots.
	Note: If time remains, use a 3D turkey target to discuss the proper aiming point on a turkey.
PART D:	Ask students to recall the important topics that were covered in the lesson. It is important for students to be able to verbalize
<u>Student</u> <u>Summary</u>	these points. Use questioning strategies to flesh out answers.
2 minutes	 What vital organs are found in the chest cavity? What is the best shot angle for a big game animal with archery tackle?
	 When shooting uphill or downhill, should bowhunters aim using the line of sight distance or horizontal distance? What force affects arrow trajectory?
	END OF LESSON
Addendum A	DIAGRAM
Addendum B	FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
0	1. What angle is too steep for an ethical shot?
	2. Is it ok to take head shots? Only on birds or small game with the proper arrow point. Head shots are not ethical and are rarely lethal for big game animals.