

# CLAWNAGERS

## Week 1 Sample Lesson Plan

*Meet Your Agent: A Complete 50-Minute Lesson for Introducing AI Agents*

### Overview

Students discover the difference between AI chatbots and AI agents, install OpenClaw on their machines, write their first SOUL.md file to give their agent a unique personality, and have their first real conversation with an agent that can **DO things** — not just answer questions.



**Big Idea: A chatbot answers. An agent acts.**

### Learning Objectives

By the end of this week, students will be able to:

1. Explain the difference between an AI chatbot and an AI agent in their own words
2. Install and configure OpenClaw on their computer
3. Create a SOUL.md file that defines their agent's personality
4. Have a multi-turn conversation with their agent
5. Identify at least 3 things an agent can do that a chatbot cannot



### Materials Needed

- **Per student:** Laptop with macOS, Windows, or Linux; internet connection; text editor (VS Code recommended, but Notepad/TextEdit works)

- **Teacher:** Projector/screen for demos, this lesson plan, access to a working OpenClaw installation for live demo
- **Pre-class setup:** Ensure school WiFi doesn't block npm registry or OpenClaw's setup endpoints
- **Handout:** "Chatbot vs Agent" comparison sheet (printable)
- **Backup plan:** If npm is blocked, have USB drives with offline installer ready

## Session 1: What Is an AI Agent? (50 minutes)

### Minutes 0–5: Hook — The Demo That Changes Everything

**Teacher does (not says):** Open your laptop with OpenClaw running. Say out loud:

```
"Hey, what's the weather in [your city] right now?"
```

Show the agent's response — it actually checked the weather. Then say:

```
"Search the web for the top news story today."
```

Show the agent searching and summarizing. Then say:

```
"Now create a file on my desktop called hello.txt and write  
'AI agents are real' in it."
```

Show the file appearing on your desktop. Pause. Let it sink in.

**Teacher says:**

*"That wasn't ChatGPT. That wasn't Siri. That was an AI agent. It didn't just answer my question — it went out and DID things. It checked the weather, searched the*

*web, and created a file on my computer. Today, every single one of you is going to build your own."*

### Minutes 5–15: Chatbot vs Agent — The Key Distinction

**Write on board or show slide:**

Feature	Chatbot	Agent
Answers questions	✓	✓
Searches the web live	✗	✓
Creates/edits files	✗	✓
Uses tools	✗	✓
Takes actions for you	✗	✓
Remembers across sessions	✗	✓

**Key Analogy:** Think of it this way. A chatbot is like a really smart friend who's trapped in a room with no phone, no computer, no internet. They can answer questions from memory, but they can't DO anything for you.

An agent is like a really smart friend who has a phone, a laptop, and your permission to use them. They can look things up, send messages, and get things done.

### Minutes 15–20: What Is OpenClaw?

OpenClaw is an open-source platform that lets you build your own AI agent. Open-source means the code is free and anyone can see how it works — no secrets, no hidden stuff.

**What makes OpenClaw special:** you don't need to write code. You configure your agent by writing plain English files. The main one is called SOUL.md — and it defines who your agent IS.

Today we're going to install OpenClaw and write our first SOUL.md. By the end of class, you'll have a working AI agent with its own personality.

## Minutes 20–35: Guided Installation

### Step 1: Check if Node.js is installed

```
node --version
```

You should see a version number like v18.something or v20.something. If you get an error like 'command not found', raise your hand.

### Step 2: Install OpenClaw

```
npm install -g openclaw
```

#### ⚠️ Teacher Note:

This is the #1 place where things go wrong. Budget extra time. Common issues:

- **Permission error on Mac/Linux:** Run `sudo npm install -g openclaw`
- **Permission error on Windows:** Right-click PowerShell → "Run as Administrator"
- **Network timeout:** School WiFi may be slow. Be patient.

### Step 3: Run setup

```
openclaw setup
```

### Step 4: Verify it works

```
openclaw chat
```

If you see a chat interface, you're in! Type 'hello' and see if the agent responds. Then type 'exit' or press Ctrl+C to quit.

### Minutes 35–40: First Look at SOUL.md

Every OpenClaw agent has a file called SOUL.md. This file tells the agent WHO it is. Its personality, its style, its rules.

#### Example SOUL.md:

```
# SOUL.md ## Personality I am Professor Byte, a nerdy but enthusiastic computer science teacher. I love bad puns about technology. I explain things simply but never talk down to people. ## Rules - Always be encouraging - Use analogies from video games when explaining things - End every response with a fun tech fact
```

See? It's just plain English. No code. No special syntax. You're literally telling the agent who to be.

### Minutes 40–48: Students Write Their First SOUL.md

Your turn! Create a new file and save it as `SOUL.md` in your OpenClaw workspace folder.

#### Write at least 3 things about your agent:

1. **Who is it?** Give it a name and a personality. Is it a pirate? A poet? A sarcastic teenager?
2. **How does it talk?** Formal? Casual? Funny? Does it use emoji?
3. **What are its rules?** Does it always tell jokes? Does it refuse to be boring?

You have 8 minutes. Make it weird. Make it funny. Make it YOURS. The more specific you are, the better the agent will follow your instructions.

### Minutes 48–50: Wrap-Up and Preview

If you finished your SOUL.md, awesome. If not, that's your homework — finish it before next class.

Next session, we're going to load these up and have real conversations with our agents. You'll see your personality come to life.

**Think about:** what would you want an AI agent to actually DO for you? Not just answer — DO. We'll talk about that next time.

### Assessment Criteria

Criteria	Developing (1)	Proficient (2)	Exemplary (3)
SOUL.md	Generic/minimal (<5 lines)	Clear personality with rules (5-10 lines)	Rich, creative, detailed (10+ lines)
Agent conversation	Agent doesn't reflect SOUL.md	Agent mostly follows personality	Agent consistently demonstrates personality
Understanding	Can't explain chatbot vs agent	Can explain with prompting	Can explain independently with examples

## **Building the next generation of AI agents**

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