

Transparent Assignment Template

This template can be used as a guide for developing and explaining in-class activities and out-of-class assignments. Making these aspects of each course activity or assignment explicitly clear to students has demonstrably enhanced students' learning in a national study.¹

Due date:

Purpose: *Define the learning objectives, in language and terms that help students recognize how this assignment will benefit their learning.*

Skills: The purpose of this assignment is to help you practice the following skills that are essential to your success in this course / in school / in this field / in professional life beyond school:

[Bloom's Taxonomy of Educational Objectives](#) (and [cue questions](#)) can help you explain these skills in language students will understand. Listed from cognitively simple to most complex, these skills are:

- *understanding basic disciplinary knowledge and methods/tools*
- *applying basic disciplinary knowledge/tools to problem-solving in a similar but unfamiliar context*
- *analyzing*
- *synthesizing*
- *judging/evaluating and selecting best solutions*
- *creating/inventing a new interpretation, product, theory*

Knowledge: This assignment will also help you to become familiar with the following important content knowledge in this discipline:

Task: *Define what activities the student should do/perform. List any steps or guidelines or a recommended sequence for the students' efforts.*

Criteria for Success:

- *Define the characteristics of the finished product and provide specific examples of what these characteristics look like in practice.*
- *With students, collaboratively analyze an example of good work before the students begin working.*
- *Offer a critiqued example of excellent work with specific indicators of what makes the work successful.*
- *Explain how excellent work differs from adequate work.*
- *Provide a rubric or checklist of characteristics of successful work to help the student know if s/he is doing high quality work while s/he is working on the assignment. This enables students to evaluate the quality of their own efforts while they are working, and to judge the success of their completed work. Students can also use your checklist to provide feedback on peers' coursework.*
- *Indicate whether this task/product will be graded and/or how it factors into the student's overall grade for the course. Later, asking students to reflect and comment on their completed, graded work empowers them to focus on changes to their learning strategies that might improve their future work.*

¹ Winkelmes, Mary-Ann. "Transparency in Teaching: Faculty Share Data and Improve Students' Learning." *Liberal Education* [Association of American Colleges and Universities] 99, 2 (Spring 2013).

Transparent Assignment Template**BLANK****Due Date:**

Purpose: Study use and design of neon signs from the Las Vegas area to understand how line and light are used to convey information and assign meaning.

Skills:**Knowledge:****Task:****Criteria for Success:**