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The University Center for
Writing-based Learning

the writing
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the
collaborative
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writing &
research

outreach

Secrets of a Writing Center Tutor: Drafting Effective Assignment Prompts

Lauri Dietz and Theresa Bailey

TODAY'S FOCUS



- How can instructors design assignments that increase students' chances of succeeding?

4. Collaboration

among peers

is an especially effective mode of learning.

TRICKY TERMS



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In small groups, share how you would **define** either or both of your assigned terms. What would a student have to do in a written assignment to **fulfill your expectations** of that term?

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Analyze & Reflect	Clear & Correct
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What qualities should the content have?• What should the tone be?• How should content be organized?• What does a strong thesis look like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Which tense should be used when?• Which style guide should they consult?• How should they incorporate evidence?• Which grammar rules must they follow?

FROM TRICK TO TREAT



- Make implicit instructions explicit.
- Define discipline-specific expectations.
- Acknowledge your idiosyncratic preferences.



RECIPE FOR SUCCESS



- Rhetorical Context (Audience, Purpose, Genre)
- Prompt = Rubric
- Document Design
- Scaffolding
- Feedback
- Revision
- Metacognition

HOW A WRITING CENTER TUTOR CAN HELP YOU

- Get feedback on your prompt at the Writing Center
- Request Writing Fellows
- Request an in-class Workshop

