Secrets of a Writing Center Tutor: Drafting Effective Assignment Prompts

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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

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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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Analyze &amp; Reflect</th>
<th>Clear &amp; Correct</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What qualities should the content have?</td>
<td>Which tense should be used when?</td>
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<td>What should the tone be?</td>
<td>Which style guide should they consult?</td>
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<td>How should content be organized?</td>
<td>How should they incorporate evidence?</td>
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<td>What does a strong thesis look like?</td>
<td>Which grammar rules must they follow?</td>
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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