

Principles of Assignment Writing

- Tailor your assignments not only towards the immediate goals of the course, but also towards helping students become independent writers and researchers at LFC.
- The assignment should contain key words that will identify the kind of assignment you hope your students will deliver (i.e., analyze, summarize, argue, describe, persuade, etc.).
- Make note of the rhetorical situation. Tell your students about their audience, their role as writers, and the purpose of the assignment.
- Whenever possible, try sequencing your assignments so that students can turn in multiple drafts. This not only provides students with more time to revise, but also with fewer opportunities to fall into plagiarism.
- Teach your students how to read your assignments and provide samples of appropriate responses. What words should they look out for? What kinds of thinks should they infer from your wording or organization?

Tips	Why?	In class
<p>Include a brief note stating the goals of the assignment. Explain the kind of final product you expect and the kind of skills you hope this assignment will help the students develop.</p>	<p>When students know what kind of specific writing you expect from them, they are more likely to a) respond to the assignment successfully and b) tailor their writing to the specific goals of the assignment. Hopefully, this will direct them away from generic structures.</p>	<p>Discuss examples of good, average, and bad papers. Bring samples so that students can see what they should aim for and avoid.</p> <p>→ See our writing samples</p>
<p>Try to make the assignment question as clear and concise as possible. Limit yourself to one sheet of paper (printed on both sides if necessary). If you have several questions, try to reflect their hierarchy in your formatting.</p>	<p>Without exception, all college writing websites agree that shorter assignments with a clear organizational pattern tend to be more successful in reducing student confusion with regards to goals and expectations.</p>	
<p>Include guidelines (i.e., formatting, page length, grading criteria, citation style, etc.) and a visible due date.</p>	<p>If these requirements are clearly delineated, you avoid wasting time on mechanical issues and can focus on more important issues. Moreover, a brief section on grading criteria can help students know how different aspects of the paper can bear down on their final grade.</p>	