

Effective Writing Assignments From Ginny Horvath

These are some of the principles I follow in assigning writing in my classes:

1. Give a written description of the assignment that includes goals, steps, format, and due date. These can be posted in ANGEL.
2. In lower-division courses, outline the steps needed to complete the assignment, and build these steps into the syllabus.
3. Explain the grading rubric or criteria when the writing is assigned. If possible, engage students in discussion/creation of the criteria.
4. Create options that allow students to approach a topic from different perspectives.
5. Build into the syllabus opportunities for class discussion and peer review of writing in progress.
6. Make good use of campus resources to assist students in writing and revising.
7. Be clear about expectations for the use of primary and secondary sources.
8. Provide meaningful feedback about writing, including examples from student work.
9. Make good use of handbooks and reliable online resources.

Sample Handouts

Assignment: Examination of a Particular Comic Work/Performer
Collaborative Presentation on the Humor of a Particular Group
Criteria for Grades of Essays 1 and 2
Essay 2: *The Inferno* and *The Romance of Tristan and Iseult*
How to Make Sentences Clear and Concise
Journal Prompts: *The Odyssey*
Practice with MLA Documentation Style
Some Lessons from Essay 1
Suggestions for Journal Entries
Suggestions for Revising Your Essay