Centralized Class Calendar

Students can navigate your assignments at the class calendar from the home page of your class site. From there they can also read the assignments and complete them by clicking on the highlighted calendar listing.

Efficient Feedback & Assessment

The Online Writing Environment provides an alternative method to traditional commentary. You can apply standardized, color-coded comments to your students' work or create customized color-coded comments to suit the needs of a particular assignment.

Online Writing Environment

Assignment Creation, Rubrics, & Reporting

The Online Writing Environment facilitates professor/student interaction by providing a convenient and more structured alternative to email. In the “Create Assignments” section, professors can post questions for their students to answer. Pre-built rubrics are available when you create an assignment. As students complete the assignment, they can click to receive rubric definitions for each assessment area. In the expanded version of the assessment page, professors can see samples of student work organized by rubric point.

Class Communication Tools

The Online Writing Environment allows you to easily communicate with your students using the email addresses they’ve entered as part of the environment sign-up process. The Online Writing Environment allows you to place your students in peer groups. Then, if you choose to set up your assignments to include peer review, students can tag their completed work as “ready for peer review.” Peer group members can communicate with one another about their work.

When students click on the highlighted sentences, they see an explanation of the error and information to help them revise. This function makes it possible to quickly draw a student’s attention to something that needs re-thinking.

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Dramatize:
- Describe something abstract in concrete terms
- Create an enigma
- Take something too far; exaggeration can be instructive about limits

Theorize:
- Describe something concrete in abstract terms

Evaluate:
- Select the best (or second best) from competing alternatives & explain the selection process
- Recognize the difference between real and pseudo or impossible problems
- Differentiate valid from invalid premises, descriptions, models, etc.

Critique:
- Recognize the difference between real and pseudo or impossible problems
- Select the best (or second best) from competing alternatives and explain the selection process

Analyze:
- Make a precise distinction
- Decipher an enigma or explain an apparent contradiction
- Explain a complex idea in simple terms and vice versa
- Identify weaknesses in the data

Synthesize:
- Select the right model
- Find unobvious similarities
- Explain an apparent contradiction

Historicize:
- Provide a context

Diagnose:
- Locate the cause of an effect

Conjecture:
- Draw a plausible but distant conclusion

Reflection:
- Figure out where something came from without being told

Abstraction/Categorization:
- Review the literature
- Represent numbers graphically; what kind of graphics for what kind of numbers?

Anticipate:
- Infer something accurately from incomplete evidence, anticipate the end of a sequence before the end arrives; given a, b, and c, what's d?
- Predict where something (a line of inquiry, a pattern, etc.) is going

The Online Writing Environment is an interactive, collaborative work space modeled after traditional peer-review processes. It is designed for short, informal writing-to-think assignments, geared toward improving student knowledge of a subject by making them think and write about the material more often.

Effective Assignment Patterns

Synthesizer:
- Select the right model
- Find unobvious similarities
- Explain an apparent contradiction

Historicizer:
- Provide a context

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