Aligning Assignments with Learning Objectives

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Backward Design
Learning Objectives

What should students be able to do when they complete your course?

Be specific.
Assessments

- How will students show you that they’ve met the learning objectives?
- Be sure your assessments align with your learning objectives.
Activities and Content

Plan instructional activities; content

- Which activities will lead students to the desired results?
- Determine how you will present your content.
Examples

1. Discuss Earth’s inner structure and its origin of heat (Oceanography – aligned with a short lecture and discussion).

2. Recognize parts of the brain, and locate given structures using appropriate anatomical terms (Psychology – aligned with interactive content that highlights parts of the brain and anatomical terms when moused over and a worksheet assignment).

3. Practice using a vivid memory to begin writing a story (Creative Writing – aligned with readings and the practice of writing through workshops).
Implications for Course Design

Course Goal

Learning Objective (1)

Learning Objective (2)

Assessment (1)

Assessment (2)

Assessment (1)

Assessment (2)

Assessment (1)

Assessment (2)

Assessment (3)

Content

Content

Activity

Activity

Activity