

Transparency in Learning and Teaching Project

What makes an assignment transparent?



Purpose

- Uncovers relevance to students
- Connects to learning outcomes



Task

- Students know *what* to do
- Students know *how* to do it



Criteria

- Identifies specific expectations and criteria
- Provides examples & standards for success

Activity 1: Write one sentence describing a real-world situation where your course content applies.

Activity 2: Consider one of your current assignments. What common questions do you get from students about the assignment?

Activity 3: Focus on one of the following as you read the example assignment.

Underline the **purpose**

 **Circle** the **task**

[Put brackets] around the **criteria**.

Example Assignment: Sociology 101

Social Norms Observation Paper (2–3 pages)

For this assignment, choose a public place to observe and write about the social norms you notice there. Pay attention to anything that seems meaningful or connected to what we've been discussing in class. Describe what you saw, but also try to explain what the behaviors might say about the norms in that setting and why those norms could matter.

Use at least two ideas from lecture or the readings to help frame your discussion, and make sure you include enough detail so the reader understands the situation. You don't need to be overly formal, but your paper should show sociological thinking and be clearly written and organized.

Your paper should be 2–3 pages, double-spaced, and submitted on D2L by next Thursday.

Activity 4: How can you make the above assignment more transparent?

Purpose

Task

Criteria

Activity 5: Next step...choose one of your assignments to make transparent.

What is the...

Purpose

Task

Criteria

Resources:

<https://tilthighered.com>

Examples of less and more transparent assignments in different disciplines:

<https://tilthighered.com/resources>