PERFORMANCE TASK GUIDES

In 2012, reDesign scanned the syllabi from a broad range of college freshman courses. The syllabi were from some of the most competitive colleges, and from some of the most open institutions. The scan revealed that across the country, college freshman are assigned a remarkably similar set of assignments during their first year. With this information in hand, reDesign has developed a set of Guides to support teachers in their efforts to prepare students for the academic tasks they will face after high school.

The Performance Task Guides are designed to be used across content areas and grade levels, and include suggestions for adapting the tasks for students with a wide range of abilities.

TASKS ASSIGNED TO COLLEGE FRESHMAN

Argumentative Writing
Students create and share a piece of writing that attempts to persuade, presents an argument, analyzes or critiques the work of another.

Engineering Design Process
Students develop a new product or system, or improve an existing one, to meet a need or solve a problem using an iterative multi-step process.

Infographic
Students create and share an infographic that takes a strong position and communicates data effectively.

Lab Report
Students write a formal lab report that communicates all the aspects of an organized experiment from title to conclusion and analysis.

Mathematical Generalizing
Students explore mathematical patterns empirically to develop, justify, and evaluate mathematical claims.

Mathematical Modeling
Students create and share a mathematical model that presents real world, empirical data to support understanding and analysis, and justify the use of the model.

Multimedia Presentation
Students write, create, and deliver a multi-media presentation that takes a strong position and communicates powerfully.

Narrative Writing
Students create and share well-developed, engaging narratives.

Photo Essay
Students create a photo essay that delivers a powerful message on a topic of significance, using images and text.
**Research Paper**
Students conduct research to write an extended essay that synthesizes information from diverse sources.

**Speech**
Students write and deliver a speech that communicates a strong, evidence-based position on an issue.

**Socratic Seminar**
Students participate in a structured Socratic Seminar, using inductive reasoning and questioning to deepen and demonstrate their understanding of a topic or text.

**TASKS THAT DEVELOP SKILLS SIMILAR TO THOSE EXPECTED OF COLLEGE FRESHMAN**

**Debate**
Students prepare for and participate in a formal debate.

**Informative Writing**
Students create and share an essay that explains a process, gives information about a topic, or describes something.

**Planning an Event**
Students plan and implement a social action event.

**TASKS THAT SUPPORT STUDENTS IN UNDERTAKING OTHER TASKS**

**Text Annotation**
Students demonstrate the effective application of reading comprehension strategies by annotating a text.

**Document-Based Question**
Students analyze a variety of primary source documents and produce a piece of writing that synthesizes information from the documents.

**Reflective Summaries**
Students evaluate, analyze, and respond to text while reflecting on their own developing understanding a text.