

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.