

# Module 3: Applying Tools in Different Contexts

## Key Takeaways:

- Effective assignments identify specific learning goals for the assignment.
- Effective assignments are relevant to the curricular purposes of the course. For example, courses that satisfy general education requirements have assignments that address general education learning outcomes.
- Effective assignments create meaningful tasks corresponding to appropriate learning goals.
- Assignment instructions are clearly written so that students understand the desired product or outcome, intended audience and specific parameters (e.g. length, size, formatting, citation standards).
- There is a good match between what you want students to learn and what you are asking them to do.
- The course is designed so that assignments are appropriately sequenced from foundational to higher level activities.
- The assignment rubric outlines assignment criteria and levels of achievement appropriate to the learning objectives for the assignment.
- Test questions and assignment activities exhibit the principles of effective assessment: they balance knowledge of content and critical thinking in the discipline; they ask students to apply content knowledge rather than reproduce it; and they ask students to consider content in ways that require thought, judgment, and deep understanding.

## Application Questions

- Do my assignment instructions identify learning objectives for the assignment?
- Are the assignment learning objectives aligned with the purposes of the course in the curriculum?
- Are the instructions clear enough for students to understand how to successfully produce the product or performance I am looking for?
- Have I designed this assignment effectively in relation to other assignments in the course to develop student learning from a foundational to a more advanced level of thinking in the discipline?
- Does this assignment make students' analytical reasoning visible so that I can assess more than their ability to memorize course content?
- Does the rubric assess the learning objectives for the assignment?
- Have I clearly documented the relationship between learning outcomes and assignments in my course syllabus?

