

# Assignment Design Across the Curriculum: Cueing for Transfer

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Sample of a typical  
writing assignment in the  
FYE

For this essay, I would like you to consider two questions: first, to what extent are US schools ailing? To answer this question effectively, you will probably need to research the question in the scholarly and technical literature on the subject. While there are thousands of newspaper writers eager to tell us how wonderful or how horrible the schools are, I would like you to answer this question by looking at what evidence the government and academic researchers have actually found about the quality of our schools.

Once you have evaluated the effectiveness of our schools, evaluate the standardized testing movement as a way to improve American education. How well do the current standardized tests improve students' understanding? To answer this question, it would be wise to do a cost-benefit analysis: that is, look at what benefits we receive from testing our children this way, and ask whether those benefits justify the costs of testing them. Remember also that the word *costs* can refer to more than just economic costs. With this issue, there are educational, cultural, and political costs to consider as well.

# Seminal voices on transfer

**Perkins and Salomon, “Teaching for  
Transfer” (1988)**

**National Resource Center, *How People Learn*  
(1999)**



**Meyer and Land, idea of threshold concepts,  
2003**

**s: a Developmental View of Knowledge Propagation Throu**

**Sommers and Saltz, “The Novice as Expert”  
(2004)**

**Beaufort, *College Writing and Beyond*  
(2007)**

**Wardle, “Understanding Transfer from FYC”  
(2007) and “Mutt Genres” (2009)**

**TE, and NWP *Framework for Success in Postsecondary***

**ancey, Robertson, and Taczak, *Writing Across Contexts* (20**



***Composition Forum, Fall 2012 issue***

***Dan Melzer, Assignments Across the Curriculum (2014)***

ments of Assignments Designed



**sign: near transfer/start where they are (novice)/writing to**

Washington State University Vancouver  
Sociology 347: Sociology of Race, Ethnicity, & Immigration  
Spring 2013 - Assignment I

**Option One: On-your-own field trip and reflection.** In partners/groups, you will canvas the metro

## Instructions

1. Complete the *Communication Goals Survey* in class on Jan. 10 and identify three communication goals for the quarter.
2. For each of these goals, create responses to the following items:
  - a. Explain why you want to work on this goal. How could it help you in your personal or professional life?
  - b. What are the challenges or barriers you might face as you work on this goal?
  - c. Which of the “characteristics of competent communication” (Adler and Proctor, 23-26) are most relevant to this situation? Define the characteristic, cite the textbook in MLA style, and specifically state how this idea connects to your goal.
3. Construct an essay (2-3 pages) that addresses all these pieces. Write an introductory paragraph that expresses your attitudes and beliefs about communication. The body of the paper should respond to the above items (#3 a, b, and c) for each of your three goals. Finally, create a conclusion that summarizes your interpersonal communication goals for the quarter.

**English 103, Advanced Composition**

**Paper 1: Case Study of Yourself as a Writer**

**Spring 2013**

Look back on your own career and practices as a writer, focusing on your current writing process and what you've

I recommend using the accompanying handout to jog your memory about your past experiences with writing in an



**Assignment design: far transfer/writing in the disciplines/g**



### Assignment 3: Genres in the Humanities

For this assignment you may work in pairs, if you wish.

This assignment asks you to find a scholarly article in the humanities, *identify (and describe) its various features*

By “features” I mean such things as we identified as characteristic of writing in the humanities during our discussion of the Bella article: (1) abstract, (2) thesis-driven

Please attach a copy of the article you are working with (only the version that comes to me).

Carter

WR 323 Winter 2013

Assignment 4: A Genre in Your Own Discipline

We have done a lot of work in this course related to what to do when confronted with an unfamiliar genre

**Concluding thoughts:  
why this matters**



