

Types of Assignments & Tests

Abstract
Advertisement
Annotated bibliography
Biography or autobiography (of the student or of some real or hypothetical character)
Blog or wiki posting, or personal letter
Briefing paper or “white paper”
Brochure, poster, website
Budge with rationale
Case analysis
Chart, graphy, visual aid
Cognitive map, web, or diagram
Contemplative essay
Cooperative quizzes
Court brief
Debate
Definition
Description of a process
Discussion board postings
Diagram, table, chart
Dialogue
Diary of a fictional or real historical character
Essay exam
Executive summary
Fill-in-the blank, matching, multiple-choice or sentence completion tests
Flowchart
Group discussion (One English faculty member asks students in groups of seven to discuss a piece of short fiction for thirty minutes without her intervention, while she watches and takes notes. The group is graded on the quality of discussion and group dynamics.)
“Horoscope”
“I Search” (first-person narrative account of an inquiry) (Macrorie, 1980)
Instructional manual
“Introduction” to an essay or scientific report (rather than the full report)
Inventory
Laboratory or field notes
Lecture notes
Letter to the editor
Materials and methods plan
Mathematical problem
Memo
“Micro-theme” (a tight, coherent essay on a 5x8 note card) (Bean, 1996)
Micro-lecture
Multimedia (video, PowerPoint) presentation
Narrative
News or feature story
Notes on reading
Online quizzes
Oral report
Outline
Participation
Peer reviews
Plan for conducting a project
Poem, play
Practice exams (graded for participation)
Question
Regulations, laws, rules
Research proposal addressed to a granting agency
Review of a book, play, exhibit, website, software
Rough draft or freewrite (writer writes freely, with no constraints for a certain amount of clock time) (Elbow, 1981)
“Start” (a thesis statement and outline or list of ideas for developing)
Statement of assumptions
Summary or précis
Summit conference (One historian has the class divide into teams representing the nations; they must negotiate a treaty that would have prevented World War I)
Taxonomy or set of categories
Technical or set of categories
Technical or scientific report
Term paper, research paper
Thesis sentence
Video or audio podcast
Word problem
Work or art, music, architecture, sculpture