Transparent Design Resources

University of Wisconsin
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Center for Excellence in
Teaching and Learning

The Transparency in Teaching and Learning (TILT) framework supports student success in higher education. At its core, TILT centers around three essential components of assignment design: purpose, tasks, and criteria for success. By explicitly defining and communicating these elements to students, educators create a more equitable learning environment. TILT encourages instructors to unpack the hidden curriculum we may find embedded in our practices, making it visible and accessible to all learners. Through transparent assignment design, students gain clarity, confidence, and a deeper understanding in the work they do across courses and experiences.

Scan the QR code above for digital resources.

Transparent Design Key Components

Purpose

- Purpose appears at the beginning of your assignment.
- Includes how the assignment is relevant and meaningful to students' lives now and in the future.
- States the knowledge and skills students will practice, review, or learn by completing the assignment.

Task

- The first item listed is what students do to prepare for the task.
- Separate the parts of the task with headings, if appropriate.
- Scaffold each part; avoid assuming students "know" what to do.
- Add tips or explanations for known roadblocks.
- Add examples or a description of the format or structure of the assignment.
- For group work, indicate which tasks are group tasks and which should be completed individually.

Criteria

- Create a checklist for students to use to ensure they have completed all parts of the assignments.
- Include a description or example of the critical elements of the assignment.
- Align the rubric or grading criteria to the task and add points for each section or item, if graded.

Transparent Design Resources

- ➤ TILT Higher Ed: Review the foundational information around the TILT framework and access additional resources including examples and workshop materials from the research team. https://tilthighered.com/
- ➤ Perspectives in Learning, Volume 1, Number 1 (2023) – TILT Special Issue – This journal issue includes several perspectives and experiences around TILT in higher education. https://csuepress.columbusstate.edu/pil/vol20/iss1/

Additional Resources

- ➤ Kane, J. & Mushtare, R. (Hosts). (2023 May). Transparency in learning and teaching (episode 290). [Audio podcast episode]. In *Tea for Teaching*. https://teaforteaching.com/290-transparency-in-learning-and-teaching/
- ➤ Winkelmes, M. (2022). Assessment in class meetings: Transparency reduces systemic inequities. In Henning, G. W., Jankowski, N. A., Montenegro, E., Baker, G. R., & Lundquist, A. E. (Eds.), *Reframing Assessment to Center Equity: Theories, Models, and Practices*. Stylus Publishing, LLC.
- ➤ Howard, T., Winkelmes, M., & Shegog, M. (2020). Transparency teaching in the virtual classroom: Assessing the opportunities and challenges of integrating transparency teaching methods with online learning. *Journal of Political Science Education*, *16*(2), 198-211. https://doi.org/10.1080/15512169.2018.1550420