10 Tips for Planning Authentic Assessment

Keep These Planning Tips in Mind for Student Learning, Satisfaction & Success

1. **Consider your learners.** What motivates them? What are their learning challenges and needs? What skills and knowledge do they need to develop to be career-ready?

2. **Align to outcomes.** Create authentic assignments that align your course learning outcomes and course topics, issues and themes.

3. **Use “transparent assignment” design and guidelines.** State purpose, skills and knowledge, long-term relevance to students’ lives, tasks, and criteria for success (TILT Higher Ed website).

4. **Promote self-regulated learning.** Help students direct their learning processes (Zimmerman, 2002).

5. **Scaffold the assignment.** Break into parts or phases. Provide feedback along the way as students progress & complete assignment.
6. **Include student reflection.** Have student provide feedback along the way about alternative or authentic assessments. Get their perspectives!

7. **Incorporate sharing and peer feedback.** Have students present their assignments to the class, and review each others’ work, providing peer feedback.

8. **Invite experts.** Allow students to share & learn from experts and professionals working in the field, including Mason alumni.

9. **Plan for additional time to complete assessments and for grading.** Grading will require more time than more traditional assessment. Use a rubric for efficient and effective grading.

10. **Gather data!** Collect student feedback and also examine student learning. What do grades and rubrics tell you about student learning?

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**Resources to Explore**


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