

Exercise: Opening Reflection

In this guided reflection activity, you will be asked to reflect on your own experience taking and/or teaching courses and to consider what we might think of as "typical starting points" for designing a course. You will need paper and pen or a blank electronic document – some space for recording your thoughts and completing the activities described.

Take a moment to think about courses you have taken in your discipline.

Consider any experience you've had designing courses of your own.

Give some thought to the following questions, and jot down whatever comes to mind.

Don't censor your thoughts – jot down anything and everything that occurs to you. The goal isn't to get this "right" but to uncover what you believe and assume to be true about the course design process.

Here are the questions for reflection. You should spend 2-3 minutes jotting down your ideas.

What is a typical starting point for course design in your field?

When designing courses, what do you think your professors typically think about first? (Or, what do you usually think about first?)