Resource Guide

A Framework for Integrating Technology Into Assignments

When considering technology based assignments, the natural inclination is to begin at specific technologies. This can lead to a lack of focus on learning outcomes and student confusion about the purpose of the assignment. Designing an assignment around a specific piece of technology can also lead to concerns in future semesters if the assignment remains relevant but the technology is no longer available. In this resource guide we present a framework based on technology category that can help keep the emphasis on learning outcomes while keeping flexibility with specific technologies.

- When developing your course and assignments, consider using a backwards design model focusing on learning outcomes. What do you want students to know or be able to do after completing your course? What will be acceptable evidence of this learning? What learning activities and assignments do you need to structure to achieve the desired outcome?

- Bloom's Taxonomy is a schematic useful in developing learning outcomes. It can help you scaffold from lower order to high order thinking and activities. There are several verb charts available online that match the specific levels of the taxonomy. Using verbs when writing your learning outcomes helps make them specific and measurable.

- Digital Blooms is an area of scholarship aimed at match the levels Bloom's Taxonomy with categories of technology tools. For example, if you have a learning outcome based on the analyzing level of Bloom's, you might consider technology tools in the categories of mind mapping, as a way for student to analyze their understanding of specific concepts. If you're working in the understanding level, you might consider tools for digital journals.

- After you have determined the category of tool appropriate for the assignment, then you can determine which available tool best suits the needs of you and your students.

Resources

Designing Courses for Learning, a Reinert Center Online Seminar
https://www.slu.edu/cttl/online-seminars/designing-courses/designing-courses-for-learning

Bloom's Taxonomy with Verbs from Fresno State
http://www.fresnostate.edu/academics/oie/documents/assesments/Blooms%20Level.pdf

Integrating Technology with Bloom's. From ASU
https://teachonline.asu.edu/2016/05/integrating-technology-blooms-taxonomy/

Kathy Schlock's Blooming Apps: specific technology tools matched to the levels of Bloom
http://www.schrockguide.net/bloomin-apps.html

For more information or to discuss how you might incorporate these ideas into your courses, contact the Reinert Center at cttl@slu.edu.