

Why am I doing this assignment?

Assignments can be tricky or frustrating if you don’t know *why* you are doing it, are unsure *what* you should be doing, or it’s unclear *how* you will be evaluated.

Being clear on the purpose (skills & knowledge), the tasks, and the criteria you will be evaluated on before you even begin the assignment, will increase your success on this assignment.

Before you begin your assignment *[lab report/homework/...]*, answer the following questions and fill out the worksheet on the second page:

1. **Purpose** – Why is my instructor giving me this assignment? How will completing this assignment benefit my learning?

* **Skills**: What skills will I practice?

‼ *Tip:* Consider skills that are both essential to your success in this course and beyond this course *[in school/in this field/in professional life/…].*

* **Knowledge**: What is the content knowledge I will gain by completing this assignment?

1. **Tasks** – What do I need to do and how should I do it?

* Is there a logical or required sequence of steps?
* Are there common mistakes to avoid?

1. **Criteria for Success** – How do I know I did everything my instructor asked me to do before I turn in my work?

* How will I be evaluated?
* Is there a checklist or a rubric?
* Are there certain format requirements?

Decipher what is expected of you

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| Assignment:  Due dates: | |
| Purpose *Why do I have to do this assignment? (How does it relate to this class, to my future career?)* | |
| Skills practiced | Knowledge gained |
| Tasks *What do I need to do? How will I do it?* | |
| Criteria for Success  *How will I be evaluated?* | |