

SIGNAL Assignment Starter Kit

When AI can generate the work, we need better signals of learning.

The SIGNAL framework helps you design assignments where student thinking is visible—not just the final product.

- S — Selection: Compare options
- I — Intent: Define purpose
- G — Generation: Produce work
- N — Negotiation: Explain choices
- A — Analysis: Evaluate results
- L — Learning: Reflect on thinking

You don't need to use all six every time. Start small.

Step 1: Start With Your Existing Assignment

Before redesigning, write it as it currently exists:

Step 2: Add Visible Thinking (SIGNAL Prompts)

S Selection	I Intent	G Generation	N Negotiation	A Analysis	L Learning
What options will students consider?	What is the student trying to accomplish?	What will students produce?	Where will students justify their choices?	How will students evaluate their work?	How will students reflect on their thinking?
<input type="checkbox"/> Compare two or more ideas, approaches, or solutions <input type="checkbox"/> Evaluate multiple AI-generated responses <input type="checkbox"/> Identify possible directions before choosing	<input type="checkbox"/> State a goal, claim, or purpose <input type="checkbox"/> Define what success looks like <input type="checkbox"/> Identify criteria for decision-making	<input type="checkbox"/> Create a final product (essay, solution, project) <input type="checkbox"/> Clarify expectations for AI use (if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Distinguish between drafts, revisions, or outputs	<input type="checkbox"/> Explain why one option was selected over others <input type="checkbox"/> Justify key decisions, steps, or interpretations <input type="checkbox"/> Describe tradeoffs considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Identify strengths and weaknesses <input type="checkbox"/> Critique accuracy, bias, or limitations <input type="checkbox"/> Compare results against criteria	<input type="checkbox"/> Describe how their thinking changed <input type="checkbox"/> Explain what they would do differently next time <input type="checkbox"/> Connect this task to future learning

Step 3: Your Revised Assignment

Pull your additions into a revised version

Quick Start Tip

You don't need to redesign everything.

Start with one or two additions:

- Ask students to compare options
- Ask them to justify a decision
- Ask them to reflect on their thinking

Even small changes can make thinking more visible.