

The DECIDE Framework: Assignment Design Tool

Transform one assignment to make student thinking visible

Start Here

Choose one assignment you already use. Do not redesign everything. Work with something real.

Assignment Title: _____

Course / Context: _____

What students currently submit (artifact):

What Does This Assignment Currently Show?

When students complete this task, what can you actually see?

Check all that apply:

- Final answer or product
- Organization of ideas
- Some evidence of understanding
- Clear reasoning process
- Decision-making and justification

What Might Be Missing?

What aspects of student thinking are not clearly visible?

Reframing the Goal

Instead of asking, "Did students complete the task?" shift to:

What kinds of judgment do I want to see?

Circle, brainstorm, or add:

- Evaluating options
- Choosing between alternatives
- Justifying decisions
- Revising based on comparison
- Identifying errors
- Explaining reasoning

Other:

Apply the DECIDE Framework

D	Deliberate Comparison How will students compare options?	<input type="checkbox"/> Compare their work with an AI-generated response <input type="checkbox"/> Compare two sample responses <input type="checkbox"/> Compare two possible approaches	Your idea:
E	Explain Reasoning How will students explain their thinking?	<input type="checkbox"/> Short written explanation <input type="checkbox"/> Annotation of their work <input type="checkbox"/> Audio or video explanation	Prompt you will use:
C	Challenge Errors How will students identify and revise errors?	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide a flawed example <input type="checkbox"/> Ask students to critique their own work <input type="checkbox"/> Include an incorrect AI response	Your idea:
I	Identify Decision Points Where did judgment happen?	<input type="checkbox"/> Ask students to highlight key decisions <input type="checkbox"/> Require a short reflection on choices <input type="checkbox"/> Include checkpoints during the task	Prompt you will use:
D	Defend Choices How will students justify their decisions?	<input type="checkbox"/> Written justification <input type="checkbox"/> Comparison with alternatives <input type="checkbox"/> Explanation of revisions	Prompt you will use:
E	Examine Alternatives How will students consider other possibilities?	<input type="checkbox"/> Ask what they would change <input type="checkbox"/> Ask what they rejected and why <input type="checkbox"/> Ask how another approach might work	Prompt you will use:

Notes/ Additional Ideas:

Your Redesigned Assignment

Now rewrite your assignment directions with one or more DECIDE elements included.

Original assignment (brief):

Revised assignment (include judgment prompts):

What Will Now Be Visible?

After this change, what will you be able to see that you could not before?

What used to count as evidence

Artifact = Evidence ❌

What actually counts now

Artifact (what was produced) + Reasoning (how it was developed) + Decisions (what was chosen and why) = Evidence ✓

The artifact shows *the answer*.

The reasoning and *decisions* show the thinking.