

# A Design Tool

Use these prompts to make student thinking visible during instruction, feedback, and assessment.



## 01 DECISION POINTS

Moments where a meaningful choice was made.

### LOOK FOR:

Evidence of key decisions in the work—not just the final path. These are points where judgment was required.

### ASK:

- Where did you make a key decision?
- What options were available at that moment?



## 02 ALTERNATIVES WEIGHED

Evidence that multiple paths or possibilities were considered.

### LOOK FOR:

Mentions of other approaches, ideas, strategies, or solutions that were considered—even if brief.

### ASK:

- What other approaches did you consider?
- Why didn't you choose them?



## 03 CHOICES JUSTIFIED

Clear reasoning behind the chosen direction.

### LOOK FOR:

Rationale that connects the choice to criteria, goals, values, or constraints.

### ASK:

- Why was this the best choice?
- What tradeoffs did you consider?



## 04 REVISIONS EXPLAINED

Changes connected to purpose, feedback, or new insight.

### LOOK FOR:

Evidence of revision that shows reflection, adaptation, or deeper understanding.

### ASK:

- What changed from your first version?
- Why did you make that change?

### USE THIS TOOL TO:



Guide student conferences



Structure feedback



Redesign assignments



Evaluate thinking beyond final products



Not all thinking should be visible. But assessment requires **designed access** to it.



**DESIGN FOR SIGNALS.**  
**ASSESS FOR CAPABILITY.**