

Design Rubric for Course Guide

Assignment ingredient	Minimal	Adequate	Exemplary	Pedagogical or Design Principle
Topic selection	Left to student	Link to encyclopedia	Provide instruction about topic selection and link to subject-based background sources	Metacognition Chunking
Library resources	Link to database list	Link to selected databases with a brief text description	Link to a few selected databases in order of preference with instructional materials on how to search	Reduce cognitive load Scaffolding Chunking
Internet resources	Left to student	Link to Google Scholar search	Provide instruction on web evaluation; link to selected resources	Reduce cognitive load Scaffolding Chunking
Help	Link to library contact page	Link to contact page and embed online services	Direct link to liaison librarian contact info with image	Metacognition Confidence & Reassurance
Writing assistance	Left to student	Link to the OWL guide	Link to specific assistance for type of assignment, built in appropriate sequence, and link to university Writing Center	Metacognition Scaffolding Confidence & Reassurance

Some general design principles:

Use CARP Design Principles: Contrast, Alignment, Proximity, Repetition

Online environment allows for text + sound + graphics + video + interactive components

Content should be sequenced to best reflect the process required to complete the assignment.

One chunk answers one question about one subject for one purpose

Reading online is 25% slower. A general principal is that online conversion of a text-based document should have no more than 50% of the original text word count. In concise writing, every word contributes to the sentence and every sentence to the educational goal.

Use bullets, numbering and font attributes to carry meaning. These graphical and textual signals can help with scanning.

Text should mirror the language of the course text, syllabus, assignment and other relevant documentation.

It is OK to repeat contextual information each place it is needed, and provide links to related information.