

How Can I Effectively Use Class Preparation Assignments?

Presented by:

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We can get our students to come to class prepared, but it requires a different course design.



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Interactive vs. Traditional Teaching Model

<u>Traditional Model</u>	<u>Aspects of Learning</u>	<u>Interactive Model</u>
Class Time	First Exposure	Class Time
Student-Alone Time	Higher order Reasoning	Student-Alone Time
Teacher-Alone Time	Teacher Response	Teacher-Alone Time



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Interactive Model We Use

Class Preparation Assignments (CPAs) and Definitional Grading System



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Class Preparation Assignment (CPAs)

Reading assignments with informal writing assignments of roughly 4 to 8 questions.

Guides students' reading, prepares them for class, and serves as basis for class discussion.



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Graded Pass-Fail Only

To earn credit for a CPA, a student must:

- Show a good faith effort on every question
- Bring 2 copies; 1 copy to me before class
- Attend class to modify and expand answers and add value to class discussion.



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Definitional Grading System

Course Grade	Graded Work	Pass-Fail Work
A	A average	Pass \geq 90% assignments
B	B average	Pass \geq 83%
C	C average	Pass \geq 75%
D	D average	Pass \geq 65%



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Definitional Grading System

To get a particular course grade, a student must meet or exceed the standards for each category of work.



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Class Preparation Assignments

Pay attention to what you name the class preparation assignments.

- Not homework
- Class preparation



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Class Preparation Assignments

How do I handle the paper load of grading all the CPAs?



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Class Preparation Assignments

What do I do with the CPAs after I grade them?



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Class Preparation Assignments

Do I give credit for the CPA if a student does not attend class?

What if a student did not answer every question?



Class Preparation Assignments

How hard do I make the CPA questions?



Class Preparation Assignments

Do I answer CPA questions before class?

Remember the interactive model and the use of space and time.



Class Preparation Assignments

Do I let students work together in preparing their CPAs?



Class Preparation Assignments

How do I ensure that students don't simply cut and paste CPA answers from each other?



Class Preparation Assignments

Do I cover the CPA questions in class?

Do I cover them in a linear or non-linear fashion?



Class Preparation Assignments

When students come to class prepared, don't lecture as if they were unprepared.



Class Preparation Assignments

Praise students for coming to class prepared!

Engage all your students so that all student voices are heard.



Class Preparation Assignments

Use student preparation and the CPAs as the foundation for engaging students in deeper thinking and understanding about the material.

Rock and roll with active learning.



Prepared Students

When you use the definitional grading system with class preparation assignments, students will come to class prepared to discuss the material and engage in higher-order thinking about the subject matter.



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Prepared Students

Your classes will be more interactive, students will acquire a deeper understanding of the material, and class time will be more fun for you and the students.



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Please contact us if we can be of any help to you:

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