

Using AI to Redesign Your Assignments

A Prompt Template for Faculty

You can use AI (like ChatGPT or Claude) to help you revise assignments. The key is giving AI the right information upfront: your original assignment, what you actually want students to learn, and the design principles that make assignments AI-resistant.

PROMPT TEMPLATE

I'm redesigning an assignment to make it more AI-resistant. Here's what I need:

ORIGINAL ASSIGNMENT: [Paste your assignment here]

WHAT I WANT STUDENTS TO LEARN: [The actual skill or understanding, not just "complete the task"]

DESIGN PRINCIPLES TO APPLY:

- Process over product – Require drafts, reflections, or documentation of thinking
- Local/personal context – Tie to class discussions, course materials, or personal experience
- Metacognition – Ask students to explain their choices, not just make them
- Iteration with feedback – Build in checkpoints where I respond and they revise
- AI as a visible tool – Make AI use part of the assignment rather than hidden

CONSTRAINTS: [What you can't change — class size, online format, no oral exams, etc.]

Please revise this assignment using at least 2-3 of these principles while keeping the core learning goals intact.

Tips for Working with AI

- **Be specific about learning goals.** "I want students to develop intuition about steric strain so they can predict molecular behavior" is better than "understand Newman projections."
- **Push back.** If AI gives you something too complicated, say: "This adds too much grading. Simplify while keeping the AI-resistant elements."
- **Ask for options.** "Give me three ways to add a metacognitive element" lets you pick what fits your teaching style.
- **Don't accept the first draft.** Iterate: "Part 2 still feels like something AI could fake. How can we strengthen it?"

Useful Follow-Up Prompts

- *"This requires me to customize after each class. Can you revise so I can reuse it each semester?"*
- *"How would a student use AI to cheat on this version? Now help me close that loophole."*
- *"My students resist reflective writing. Can you make it feel less like busywork?"*
- *"I teach 150 students. Which of these elements will scale?"*