

Design Guide for Summative Assessment Tasks

CRITERIA	WEAKER ASSESSMENTS	STRONGER ASSESSMENTS
ALIGNMENT: How aligned is the assessment task to the graduation standards and performance indicators?	-Graduation standards and performance indicators are not identified -Task requires skills and knowledge not aligned to standards and indicators	-Graduation standards and performance indicators are clearly identified -Cognitive level of assessment task matches the level in the identified indicators -Content knowledge and skills required in assessment task match those identified in the indicators -Method of assessment matches the level of thinking in identified indicators
ACCESSIBILITY: How accessible is the assessment task to all students?	-Expectations are undefined or unclear -Levels of student performance are not identified -Work habits are combined with academic performance -Task is not easily differentiated -Task provides little or no opportunity for student choice	-Expectations of the assessment task are clear to students -Scoring criteria clearly defines levels of student performance -Work habits are clearly separated (and independently assessed) from performance on academic standards -Assessment task could easily be differentiated to ensure all students can achieve proficiency at a rigorous levelAssessment task allows students to pursue multiple pathways and still demonstrate proficiency
TRANSFER: How relevant is the assessment task to the real world?	-Task is strictly content-based -Task is only for a classroom audience -Task can be accomplished using only one source or familiar sources	-Task lends itself to a real-world or simulated real-world product -Task is complex (interdisciplinary, incorporates transferable skills, and/or assesses multiple performance indicators) -Task provides opportunity for students to engage with a school, community, or expert audience -Task requires the use of multiple sources -Task requires the use of novel material
Rigor: How challenging is the task? Does it require students to apply, analyze, evaluate or create using what they have learned?	-Task only requires students to recall, summarize, or define	-Task requires higher order thinking – application, analysis, evaluation or creation

