

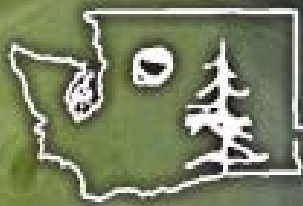
# WASHINGTON CENTER

FOR IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

## HIGH IMPACT EDUCATION

WHAT ARE WE AIMING FOR?

Connecting research on learning to classroom and curricular practices



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## PROMISING “HIGH IMPACT” PRACTICES

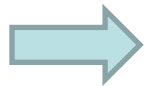
- first-year seminars
- common intellectual experiences
- learning communities
- service learning
- undergraduate research
- study abroad and other experiences with diversity
- internships
- capstone projects and experiences



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## WHAT CONDITIONS ARE COMMON TO THESE PRACTICES?

Read section from *High-Impact Educational Practices* titled “Why some educational activities are unusually effective?” pages 14-17 (pages 49-52 in packet).



Share your insights with nearby colleagues



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## TEACHING FOR UNDERSTANDING

- What topics are worth understanding in the context of your discipline or field?
- What about these topics need to be understood?
- How can we foster understanding?
- How can we tell what students understand?

“ Central understanding performances”



## INTRODUCING THE ASSIGNMENT HEURISTIC

- Overview of heuristic and its key components
- Read the *Teaching for Understanding Framework*

### *For your poster*

- Use the heuristic as a template for designing an integrative assignment. In the top section (labeled “throughlines” please put your names, discipline/field) . In the section on “understanding goals” include goals for college readiness and one or more disciplines if you are working with a partner. Then note down , “performance of understanding” and “ongoing assessment.”



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“With strong endorsement from educators and employers, AAC&U’s LEAP report, *College Learning for the New Global Century*, affirms that “the framework for accountability should be students’ demonstrated ability to apply their learning to complex problems.” By definition, this standard calls for a strong emphasis on students’ performance in **authentic integrative assignments and projects**”.

~Peer Review, Spring 2007, Carol Geary Schneider



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## CONNECT, EXTEND, CHALLENGE

How does this work on assignments connect with work you are already doing?

How does it extend what you are doing?

What are emerging challenges?