



## ANALYZING & REFINING ASSIGNMENTS

**What's the Point?** The purpose of this activity is to give you the opportunity to analyze and refine an assignment to add elements that motivate students to think critically (keep in mind that analyzing and improving are critical thinking skills). It also provides opportunities to practice critical thinking characteristics like intellectual humility and courage.

**Learning Outcome:** After completing this assignment, you will be able to:

- Have an assignment that includes elements that promotes critical thinking.
- Use this tool to analyze, design, & refine other assignments to include elements that promote critical thinking.

### Instructions:

1. Systematically consider each question below in relation to your assignment.
2. Best if done in pairs (critique your own and someone else's and swapping papers).



### KEY QUESTIONS

1. Is the specific purpose(s) of the assignment clearly stated (what's in it for the learner)?
  - ◆ What's the point? ◆ Is it clear why the teacher is doing this assignment? ◆ What will students get out of it? ◆ How will it impact on ability to give patient care?
2. What behaviors (CTIs) will be used/practiced while completing the assignment? What parts of the 4-circle CT model will be applicable?
3. Is the assignment:
  - Relevant to today's practice world? (Is it an academic exercise or "busywork"?)
  - Interactive (present tense, first person)?
  - Clearly stated and unambiguous?
  - In context of the level of knowledge of the learner?
4. Is there a more relevant, more efficient, or less time-consuming way to accomplish the purpose of the assignment?
5. Have you given students a clear, succinct handout detailing both requirements and grading system? Are you rewarding what you claim is important?
6. Have you asked students for suggestions to improve this assignment (other ways to achieve your intended outcome)?
7. Is there a less time-consuming, easier way for you to evaluate whether the students are meeting the required outcomes (for example, spot checks or audits?)
8. To be sure to reward what I claim is important, at the end of this activity, we'll share our results and vote to decide who came up with the most profound results.