

# The Enduring Anchors Design Lab

## Designing Assessments for What Must Endure

**In a tech-saturated age, the goal isn't to outpace AI.  
It's to design around what is too important to lose.**

Use this guide to identify a core learning anchor in your discipline and redesign one assignment intentionally. You may implement at **Level 1, 2, or 3** depending on your time and readiness.

### Section 1: Identify Your Enduring Anchor

#### Step 1A: Name the Anchor

**In my discipline, students must be able to:**

(Describe a durable skill, cognitive move, or way of thinking.)

#### Examples:

- *Evaluate competing claims using credible evidence.*
- *Design and interpret experiments.*
- *Apply theory to ambiguous situations.*
- *Construct a defensible argument.*
- *Analyze patterns in complex data.*

#### Step 1B: Why This Matters

**This skill must endure because:**

(Why does this matter beyond your classroom?)

## Section 2: Stress Test

Paste your current assignment prompt into AI and ask:

*"How could a student complete this assignment using AI without deeply engaging in the learning?"*

Then reflect:

**What part of the anchor could be bypassed?**

**Where is thinking currently invisible?**

**What feels too product-focused?**

## Section 3: Choose Your Implementation Level

You do not need to redesign everything. Choose the level that fits your bandwidth.

### Level 1: Small Shift (Low Lift)

Make thinking more visible without changing the assignment structure.

**Choose one:**

- Add a reflection memo explaining decision-making
- Require annotated drafts
- Add a goal-setting or revision checkpoint
- Include an AI-use transparency statement
- Require students to explain how they approached the task

**My Level 1 Change:**

## Level 2: Structural Adjustment Shift (Moderate Lift)

Adjust how students demonstrate mastery.

### Choose one:

- Offer two formats for demonstrating the same anchor
- Add peer feedback before submission
- Break the assignment into staged checkpoints
- Incorporate revision as part of grading
- Add a real-world scenario to frame the task

### Students will now be able to demonstrate learning by:

## Level 3: Anchor-Centered Redesign (High Impact)

Redesign the assignment fully around your enduring anchor.

### Consider:

- *What would this look like in a real-world context?*
- *How can students demonstrate the anchor in an authentic setting?*
- *How can the assessment emphasize reasoning over output?*

### New Assignment Concept:

### How this better protects the anchor:

## Section 4: Belonging and Access Check

Before finalizing, review your redesign.

### Does this assignment:

- Clearly define what success looks like
- Provide a low-stakes entry point
- Allow revision or iteration
- Make expectations explicit
- Avoid rewarding prior privilege
- Offer more than one way to demonstrate understanding

### One adjustment I will make to improve belonging:

## Section 5: Commitment

### One concrete change I will implement this term: