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What's Old is New Again

Time-Tested Pedagogies for a Tech-Saturated Age

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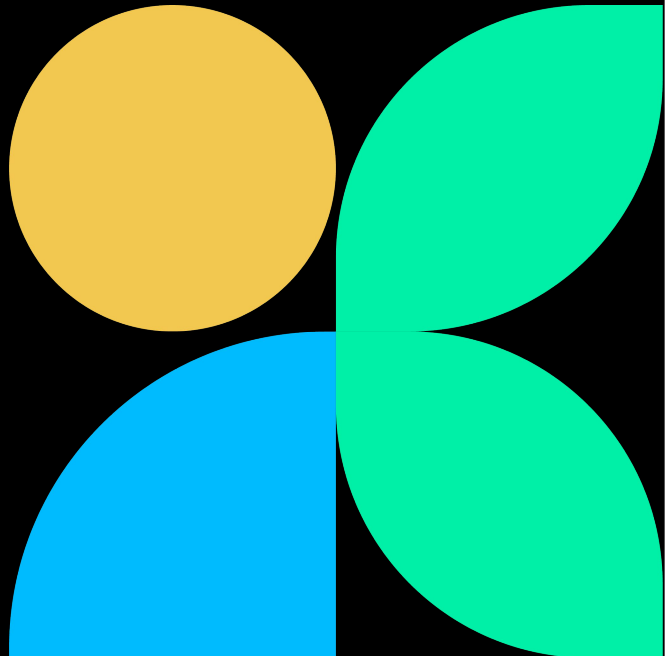
The Enduring Anchor Design Lab



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Go to

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ESDV

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https://join.iclicker.com/ESDV

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Choose an assignment to rethink

For this activity, select an assignment that:

- Feels too focused on the final product
- Could be completed with minimal visible thinking
- Students often misunderstand or rush through
- You suspect AI could complete reasonably well
- Assesses something important—but not necessarily something enduring

You do not need your most complex assignment.
Choose one that feels ready for refinement.

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The Core Skill

In my assignment, students must be able to: _____

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.

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The "So What?"

This skill must endure because: _____

Why does this skill matter beyond the classroom?

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The Stress Test

Where could a student bypass the thinking you care about most?

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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

LEVEL 2: Structural Adjustment (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

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?

Belonging & Access Check

Before finalizing, review your redesign.

- 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

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