Writing Assignment Design: Start to Finish - Resources

Things to think about when starting an assignment

- Choosing a writing assignment. ScWRL Educator Resource, University of British Columbia.
http://scwrl.ubc.ca/educator-resources/strategies-for-teaching-writing/choosing-a-writing-assignment/

- How can I help students become better writers in the discipline when I am not a writing teacher? Design & Teach a Course, Instructional Strategies. Eberly Centre, Teaching Excellence & Educational Innovation. Carnegie Mellon University.
www.cmu.edu/teaching/designteach/design/instructionalstrategies/writing/index.html

- Young, R. 2016. A big classroom is no barrier to teaching science writing - lessons from the front lines. Guest Blog. ScWRL Educator Resource, University of British Columbia.
http://scwrl.ubc.ca/2016/05/09/a-big-classroom-is-no-barrier-to-teaching-science-writing-lessons-from-the-front-lines/

Matching your assignment to your objectives

- Communication learning objectives. ScWRL Educator Resource, University of British Columbia.
http://scwrl.ubc.ca/educator-resources/strategies-for-teaching-writing/communication-learning-objectives/

- Effective versus ineffective writing prompts. ScWRL Educator Resource, University of British Columbia.
http://scwrl.ubc.ca/educator-resources/strategies-for-teaching-writing/good-versus-bad-writing-prompts/

Building process or scaffolding your writing assignment

- Using peer review. ScWRL Educator Resource, University of British Columbia.
http://scwrl.ubc.ca/educator-resources/strategies-for-teaching-writing/using-peer-review/

- Choosing and using sample texts. ScWRL Educator Resource, University of British Columbia.
http://scwrl.ubc.ca/educator-resources/strategies-for-teaching-writing/choosing-and-using-sample-texts/

- An example of scaffolding a physiology assignment based on cognitive apprenticeship instructional model (faculty modeling tasks and coaching at the start)

Kolikant, Y. B-D., Gatchell, D.W., Hirsch, P.L., and Linsenmeir, R.A. 2006. A Cognitive-Apprenticeship-Inspired Instructional Approach for Teaching Scientific Writing and Reading. Journal of College Science Teaching, 36(3): 20-25.

- Tips on Teaching Writing. The Writing Centre. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. http://writingcenter.unc.edu/faculty-resources/tips-on-teaching-writing/

Assessment of your assignment

- Creating and using good rubrics. ScWRL Educator Resource, University of British Columbia. http://scwrl.ubc.ca/educator-resources/grading-techniques/using-rubrics/

- Example rubrics
  - o Using rubrics. Centre for Teaching Excellence, Cornell University. http://www.cte.cornell.edu/teaching-ideas/assessing-student-learning/using-rubrics.html
    -Also provides tips on designing and testing your own rubric
  - o Rubrics for assessment. Online Professional Development, University of Wisconsin. http://www.uwstout.edu/soe/profdev/rubrics.cfm
  - o Grading rubrics created through the Davis Grant. University Writing Program, Brandeis University. http://www.brandeis.edu/writingprogram/uws/instructors/davisrubrics.html
  - o Examples of rubrics, Centre for University Teaching, Learning and Assessment, University of West Florida. http://uwf.edu/offices/cutla/supporting-pages/examples-of-rubrics/

Writing to learn (low-stakes writing)

- Reflective writing, with suggestions on adapting it to science.
Dukewich, K.R., and Vossen, D.P. 2015. Toward Accuracy, Depth and Insight: How Reflective Writing Assignments Can Be Used to Address Multiple Learning Objectives in Small and Large Courses. Collected Essays on Learning and Teaching Vol. VIII, pp. 97-109.

- Examples of different writing assignments (including writing to learn) for engineering
Sharp, J.E., Olds, B.M., Miller, R.L, and Dryud, M.A. 1999. Four Effective Writing Strategies for Engineering Classes. Journal of Engineering Education, 88(1): 53-57.

- Low-Stakes Writing Assignments. Centre for Teaching Excellence. University of Waterloo. https://uwaterloo.ca/centre-for-teaching-excellence/teaching-resources/teaching-tips/developing-assignments/cross-discipline-skills/low-stakes-writing-assignments