Anchor Tasks

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Anchor tasks are curriculum-embedded and are intended to engage students in applying their knowledge and skills in an authentic and relevant context. Like a boat anchor, these tasks are meant to anchor the curriculum around the most important performances that we want learners to be able to do on their own. They honor the intent of the Standards and go beyond just the ‘tested’ content.

Purpose

Effective Anchor Tasks

* are curriculum embedded, not externally imposed
* recur over the grades, becoming increasingly sophisticated over time
* establish authentic context for important content performance
* integrate Career and College skills (critical thinking, technology use, collaboration, problem solving, communication, etc.)
* can be used as rich learning activities and/or assessments
* elevate performance with established rubrics
* support meaningful learning and encourage best teaching
* provide evidence of learning over time

Examples

Close and Critical Reading of Complex Text

Opinion Writing – Argument Writing

Mathematical Problem Solving

Take a Critical Stance Based on Evidence

Etc.

Mapping Anchor Tasks

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