



ACUE

Student Success
Through Exceptional
Teaching

Prompt Students to Recognize their Assets

Using an asset-based approach to teaching includes promoting a growth mindset and helping students recognize their own experiences, backgrounds, skills, and interests as assets. Since early spring of 2020, there has been rising concern over learning loss due to school closures or unplanned online instruction. While there may have been learning loss, part of the asset-based approach could be recognizing the new knowledge and changed perspectives that students have gained because of their new experiences.

Consider using surveys, assignments, or discussion questions that prompt students to recognize the value in these experiences. Begin by sharing your own experiences with the skills you have gained through the pandemic. The reflection assignment below is one example of an assignment that seeks to accomplish this.

Reflection Assignment

Task: Write a 500- to 750-word (2- to 3-page) reflective essay covering the following (in any order, but as a cohesive essay):

1. What has your experience been like as a college student during a pandemic? What struggles, if any, have you faced? What has this experience taught you about education and about yourself as a learner? Have you honed any skills that are different from what you may have gained in face-to-face classes?
2. What themes/topics from this class have seemed particularly relevant to the current pandemic? These themes may be closely or loosely related. For example, the value of a single human life has been particularly pertinent in our readings, as has the theme of empathy. Make reference to at least two course readings and include at least two direct quotes from the readings in your response to this question. (No Works Cited entries are required.)
3. From what assignments, activities, or discussions in this course did you learn the most? On which were you most successful and why? What areas could still use improvement?
4. How will you apply any learning from this course to other courses or your career? Refer back to at least two soft skills employers look for, as we discussed during our second week in this course (see Hart Associates and NACE 2018 readings on Moodle).
5. Anything else you may want to mention about this semester and/or the course is optional.