Small Teaching Online Ch. 1
Surfacing Backward Design

Flower Darby & James Lang, 2019

The Backward Design framework focuses on overarching learning goals first, then assessments, before determining content.
*The information in each box, below, highlights the **what**, **why**, and **how** (quick tips) of applying backward design.*

Design with the goal in mind

Why: Intentional design creates meaningful learning.

Start by identifying "enduring understanding" (Wiggins&McTighe), then determine assessments.

Road Trip Analogy:
- Where do we want to go?
- How will we know we are there?
- What do we need to get there?

Resource: Stages of Backward Design

Remind students of the destination

Why: Promotes meaningful learning and engagement.

Resource: How to add audio in Brightspace

Learning Goals

Engage with Learning Objectives

Why: "We all perform better when we know what the goal is" (Darby & Lang, p. 23).

Resource: Use your course outline as a learning Tool.

Connect the Start to the "End"

Why: Emphasizes that learning is an ongoing journey

Quick Tip: End of term "3 Takeaways" assignment.

Quick Tip 1: Be explicit, be present

Clarify learning objectives tied to each activity. Ensure that students have a chance to ask questions and understand the purpose of coursework.

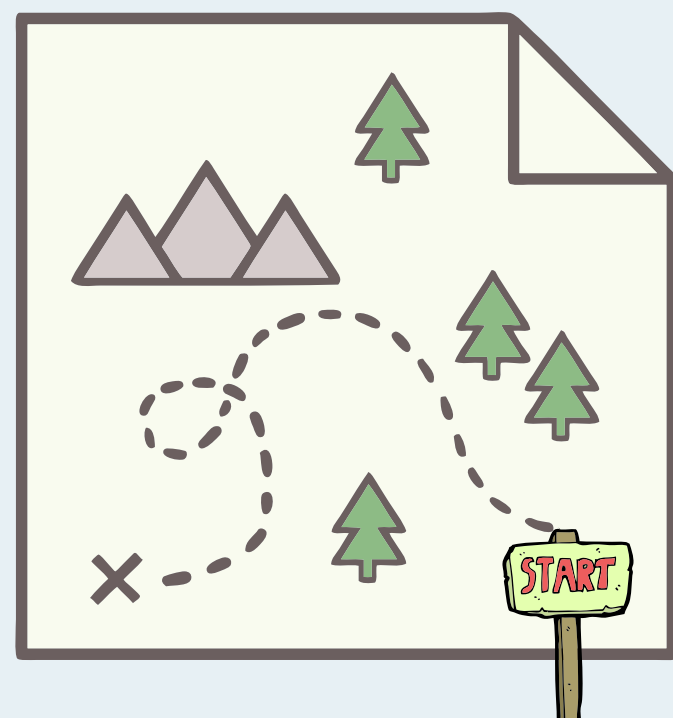## Quick Tip 2: Integrate Self-Reflection

Create regular opportunities for learners to consider and write down their thoughts about the learning outcomes at the start or middle of the semester, then again at the end of the course. Self-reflection personalizes the learning journey and empowers learners. Private or shared.
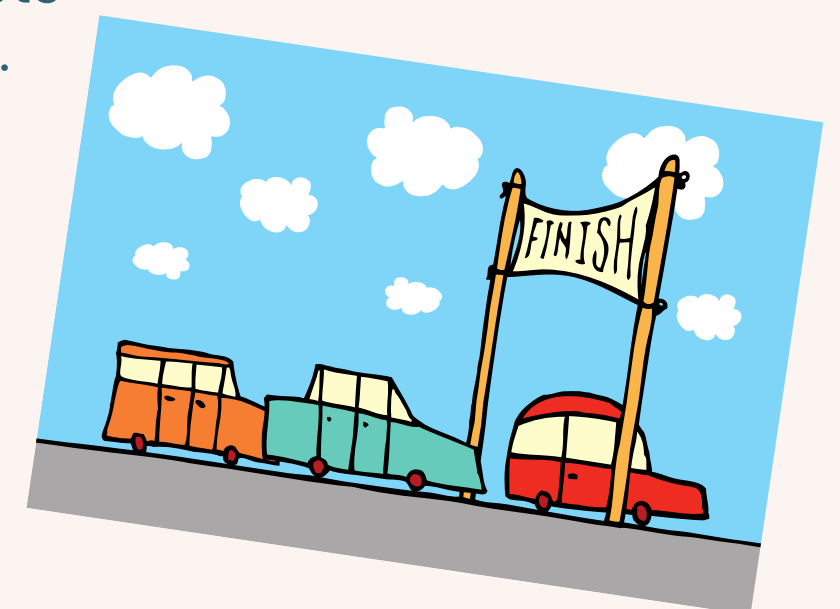
Quick Tip 3: Low-stakes graded task

Week 1, students work on the final assessment. This sets students up for success.