

Bringing TILT into Your Course



Purpose

This guide provides a quick overview of how to bring **Transparency in Learning and Teaching (TILT)** into your course by clarifying the purpose, tasks, and success criteria of assignments so students understand what they're doing, why it matters, and how to succeed. TILT levels the playing field through clarity and purpose.

Transparency Defined

Transparency for Instructors Means:

- Taking the guesswork out of course materials
- Making the purpose and process of learning explicit
- Clarifying how activities connect to course goals
- Ensuring expectations are concrete, consistent, and easy to navigate

Transparency for Students Means:

- Receiving clear, accessible messages (verbal, written, and visual) about:
 - What they're doing
 - Why it matters
 - How success is defined
- When students understand the purpose behind their learning and how success is defined, they are more motivated, better organized, and more confident in their ability to succeed

The Transparency Framework

1. Purpose

- What skills and knowledge will students gain?
 - Bonus: How are those skills and knowledge related to the real world?

2. Task

- What will students do, and how will they accomplish this?
 - Bonus: Can you highlight steps to take (and avoid) to produce high-quality work?

3. Criteria

- **What does success look like?**
 - Bonus: Can you share examples of work that meets expectations – and work that doesn't?

4. Accessibility (Clemson addition)

- **Can all students engage with the task easily and navigate independently?**
 - Bonus: Is the tone welcoming? Is the design usable across formats and devices?

Where Transparency Shows Up

- **Syllabus**
 - Why is this course valuable?
 - How will we approach it – and why?
- **Assessments**
 - What are we learning?
 - How are we learning it?
 - How are we measuring our learning – and why?
- **Communication**
 - Clear, consistent messages benefit all students
 - Use LMS announcements, weekly reminders, and pair written instructions with verbal ones
 - Help uncover the “unwritten rules” of college

Deeper Dive

- **Check out the following resources for examples:**
 - Teaching with [Transparent Methods](#)
 - More and less transparent [Assignment Prompts](#)