

Using examples to clarify assessment tasks



Provide clear assessment guidelines

Ensure that students are aware of the requirements of the assessment and that these are available alongside any examples

Incorporate the examples into other assessment for learning activities

Use examples as part of a class discussion on the assessment requirements, or on the academic skills being assessed—for example analysis, literature critique, academic writing

Try to show a range of examples

Students may find it helpful to see examples which use different approaches to meeting the requirements. Where possible let them see examples of different standards and ask them to decide what mark they would award the work against the marking criteria

Use relevant examples

Choose examples which have a similar focus or academic skills to the assessment the students will be undertaking themselves

Consent

If you are using a previous student's work, obtain their consent

Anonymise

Ensure that the student cannot be identified by name or by topic

Reduce possibility of plagiarism

Submit all examples through Turnitin and save as a PDF file

Consider using excerpts rather than whole assessments as an example

Try giving several examples of an introduction or conclusion and ask them to identify the strengths or areas for improvement for each one

Use the exercise to develop their critical faculties

Ask them to justify why they think one example is better than another

Ask them to give feedback on the example

This can help them see how work (including their own) could be improved and enhance their understanding of their own feedback

Provide the original feedback

After they have reviewed the example themselves