Creative Micro-Theme Assignment

Example: Intro to Chemistry

Purpose To understand the physical states or phases of matter and intermolecular forces (especially hydrogen bonding).

Point of View A water molecule.

Audience Other water molecules.

Scenario You are a single water molecule among many in a hot water heater. All of sudden, you are released from the water heater tank and violently expelled through the nozzle of a showerhead. Before you recover, however, you are alone for a period of time, until you meet a group of your water molecule friends on the surface of a bathroom mirror.

Writing Assignment On the surface of the mirror, you and your friends all share similar stories. Since you are the most scientifically inclined of the group, you are assigned to write a short report, based on sound fundamental molecular reasoning, explaining what happened to you all. Your report to the group should include a discussion of the forces that kept you all together and then reunited you. You should also explain why you each found yourselves alone for a period of time and how you ended up together again on the surface of the mirror. A couple of good paragraphs should suffice.

Focusing Questions You will need to formulate these as a part of the prewriting analysis. Be sure to point out the inner-relationship between the physical states of matter and intermolecular forces, giving special attention to hydrogen bonding.

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In-Class Essay Assignment

Example: Geology

For a ten-minute in-class essay, students are given some statements for and against population control. They write about this question: “Do present-day environmental concerns justify government-sponsored measures to halt population growth?” After writing, students exchange essays and write a brief response to their classmates’ essays. Then they exchange essays again and write another response, so every student receives two responses.

*Lee Robinson, Jeff Keith, Jenny Pulsipher, Brian Harker, and Suzanne Hendrix, BYU.
Homework Assignment

**Example: History**

For homework, students write a one-paragraph-length question to be turned in at the beginning of each class period. Questions make up 20 percent of the course grade and will be evaluated according to quality of thought and appropriateness for stimulating class discussion.

*Lee Robinson, Jeff Keith, Jenny Pulsipher, Brian Harker, and Suzanne Hendrix, BYU.*

Reading Journal Assignment

**Example: Nutrition, Dietetics, and Food Science**

| Purpose | The reading journal should do two things. First it will encourage you to stay on top of the reading assignments. Second, by thinking and writing about the reading material, you should have a much better grasp of the ideas, concepts, and principles of management in dietetics than you otherwise would. |
| Audience | You are really writing to and for yourself, but I will look at your entries, and your question section might be written to me or to yourself. Occasionally you will share and compare entries with your classmates. |
| Format | A template is provided for you in the syllabus and you can download the template from the Web. Diagrams may be neatly done by hand, but please type other parts of your entry. |
| Volume | You will need at least one page per week. Sometimes the reading assignments for the week are closely related and can be put on one form. Some weeks, however, the reading topics are different enough to warrant two forms. |
| Due Dates | Journal entries are due, generally at the beginning of the class period, when “RJ” is shown on the schedule. |
| Evaluation | Journal entries will be five (5) points each. An entry displaying obvious lack of thought (which includes looking too much like a classmate’s entry) will result in the loss of three (3) points. Journal entries will not be accepted after the class period ends—they must be turned in when called for in class. |

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