

Prompt Writing

An assessment is only as good as the prompt that students have to respond to. All good prompts have the following components – a setting, stated goal or student challenge, ask students to produce a product or complete a task, and an audience. Additionally, the NHES list the following as components of well-designed assessments:

- Aligns with 1-2 performance indicators within a specific skill
- Provides a clear description of the tasks of the assignment:
 - Information about the topics and skills students will know and be able to do once they complete the task
 - Description of the product the student will create to demonstrate understanding of and ability to perform the skill
- Step-by-step directions, including process steps, feedback, and how to complete the task
- Assessment criteria, including the rubric(s), and tips for a well-designed response or project
- Sample **exemplars** (samples of previously completed work that show students what a high quality and high scoring assignment look like)
- Support from the teacher via instructions and opportunities for students to receive feedback and revise their work

Choose one of the NHES skills and then a grade level and write a performance task prompt that could be given to students as an assignment and demonstration of the skill cues. The following table may help to organize your thoughts.

National standard and Performance Indicators being assessed:
Skill cues:

Assignment instructions: (Be specific! Students will give you what you ask for. You must state tell students how they will receive credit and what they must do in order to get full credit.)