

**FACULTY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS**

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**Workshop 4: Better Assignments for Better Student Writing**

**Length: 45 minutes**

**Motive: Clearly designed writing assignments yield significant improvements in students’ written responses**

**Objective: To give faculty strategies for composing effective essay assignments**

2m	Write a list of verbs that can be used in writing assignments. Circle one.
3m	Introductions. State your name and the verb you circled.
10m	Activity 1: Active Reading. 5m: Read “Crafting Assignments” by Kerry Walk. Underline key phrases. 5m: Participants read aloud the key phrases they underlined. When you hear the phrase you underlined, join in.
20m	Activity 2: Critiquing and Rewriting. 5m: Read sample assignment. Write a list of possible missteps a student might make trying to complete this essay. 5m: Share lists by reading aloud. 5m: Pretend you’re Kerry Walk: write a letter to “Prof. Krugman” offering advice on how to improve his assignment. 5m: Share portions of letter by reading aloud.
10m	Discussion, Q&A, and post-mortem. Participants share strategies, thoughts, and suggestions. Workshop leader revisits important points.

Materials needed:

- Copies of Chapter 5, “Crafting Assignments” from Kerry Walk’s *Teaching with Writing* ([http://writingatqueens.qc.cuny.edu/files/2010/05/Walk\\_TWW.pdf](http://writingatqueens.qc.cuny.edu/files/2010/05/Walk_TWW.pdf))