

## Make Writing Meaningful

**Next Generation Assessments**  
**International Center for Leadership in Education**  
[www.nextnavigator.com](http://www.nextnavigator.com)

### Student Work

Student work is at the heart of learning. Focusing on student work is also an excellent means of measuring the quality of instruction. Student work is defined as the observable effort or tangible products produced by a student. Student work provides the most tangible evidence of the learning process. The best way to judge the quality of teaching and learning is by looking at the work that students are producing in the classroom.

- Is the work meaningful and challenging?
- Are all students actively engaged?
- Do students have a clear understanding of what constitutes outstanding work?
- Do students show commitment to and enthusiasm for their work?

*Answers to these questions provide rich evidence of the quantity and quality of learning taking place. Teachers should spend time thinking about what significant pieces of work students will produce and not limit themselves by simply defining the content and objectives for what students will learn. The following list of student work is a good reference for defining student work as part of assessment planning.*

- |                             |                       |                              |                                |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Advice letter             | • Debate              | • Map                        | • Proposals and criteria       |
| • Analysis of painting      | • Error analysis      | • Memo                       | • Questionnaire                |
| • Analyzing primary sources | • Field guide         | • News report                | • Questions                    |
| • Argument analysis         | • Film analysis       | • Oral history               | • Real-world problem solutions |
| • Article reviews           | • Geometric analysis  | • Persuasive letter          | • Road trip directions         |
| • Biography analysis        | • Graph               | • Planning for a task        | • Rules                        |
| • Cartoon                   | • Interview           | • Poem                       | • Scale model                  |
| • Character analysis        | • Interview Questions | • Poster                     | • Speech critiques             |
| • Chart                     | • Journal entry       | • Preparing for a discussion | • Survey                       |
| • Complaint letter          | • Letter writing      | • Proposal                   | • Taxonomy                     |
| • Data analysis             | • Literary analysis   |                              | • Timelines                    |
|                             | • Logical sequences   |                              |                                |

Bloom's Taxonomy can be aligned with performance assessments.