

Creating Alternative Assignments to Meet Learning Goals

The same learning outcome can be taught in many different ways, including through alternative assignments that differ from what we think of as traditional, direct instruction. The following alternative assignment ideas are offered to get your own creative juices flowing:

Learning Outcome	Alternative Assignment
<p>Math: Students will be able to compute average rate of change of a function between two points.</p>	<p>Students independently watch a video of this math process and demonstrate understanding on a few simple problems. Next, in small groups, students build and implement a research plan (which can include contacting experts outside of UCSC) to find out how this process is used in real-world applications. As a team, students report on their research including: 1) their research plan, 2) the outside sources they contacted, and 3) the types of real world applications they discovered.</p>
<p>Computer Science: Students will come up with a problem they can solve through computer code.</p>	<p>Working in teams of 3 or 4, students will come up with the most advanced problem they can currently solve in Python as a development team. Each team will run the code and demonstrate its functionality for the class.</p>
<p>Biology: Students will be able to explain how non-genetic information is passed from one generation to the next.</p>	<p>Having done the provided readings, students work in groups of 3 to develop an accurate, graphic representation of this process. Different mediums and creative methods are encouraged.</p>
<p>Writing: Students will accurately explain a technical process or concept in writing.</p>	<p>In small groups, students will identify a technical process from the list provided. The group will work together and conduct research to answer all questions on the Google doc titled "Warm Up Questions." From the warm-up document, students will work with their small group to create an outline for the paper and then to write the final paper.</p>

Environmental Science:
Students will identify a major threat to the environment and propose a creative and viable solution.

Having listed major and interesting threats as a class, students will form small teams of 4 students according to topic of interest. Through a series of guided discussions the group will conduct research and decide on their best choice as a creative and viable solution. They will explain their solution in annotated and narrated Power Point Slides to be shared with the entire class and prepare to field questions from their peers.

