

## Guides to Student Success

A **Guide to Student Success** is an assessment tool designed primarily to support student learning over time. Its design provides the clarity and guidance required for student success.

### Guides to Student Success support student learning by:

- providing a collaborative *assessment for learning* tool
- clearly identifying what is required to complete a task and the criteria for excellence
- encouraging student reflection and ongoing dialogue between students and teachers
- promoting multiple iterative opportunities to affirm, revise and extend work

Rather than describing various level of performance, a **Guide to Student Success** sets out what is required to complete the task or performance (1<sup>st</sup> column) as well as indicators of excellence (2<sup>nd</sup> column). Students are invited to reflect on their draft work by considering what they feel confident about, what they feel needs further revision, and areas they would like to extend their work (3<sup>rd</sup> column). Finally, teachers respond to student’s reflections by confirming what they have done well and offering helpful and targeted suggestion for revision, addition or areas for further investigation or practice.

Guide to Success: Introduction and Conclusion			
Task requirements checklist	Qualitative Criteria (excellence) What do I need to do to do it well?	Self-Reflection What's going well? What's my next best step?	Teacher Guidance What's going well? What revisions might be considered?
<input type="checkbox"/> Introduction includes an attention grabber <input type="checkbox"/> Introduction includes a thesis statement <input type="checkbox"/> Introduction move from general to specific <input type="checkbox"/> Conclusion move from specific to general <input type="checkbox"/> Conclusion answers "why this is important"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attention grabber is clearly connected to the issue to be explored</li> <li>• Thesis statement sets out a reasonable argument that can be supported with criteria and evidence</li> <li>• Organization of the introduction and conclusion draw the reader in and help them to see the importance of the issue</li> </ul>	<p>What is going well (affirmed)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul> <p>What needs more work (revise)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul> <p>Where I would like to go next (extend):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<p>What is working well:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul> <p>What could be revised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul> <p>What might be added:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>

Guides to Student Success are particularly powerful supports in **online learning** environments. They provide a clear and concise outline of what needs to be done to complete a task and clear guidance for students to engage in reflective learning with helpful and personalized support from teachers. By posting a Guide to Student Success with each rich assessment students can self-monitor as they complete the task by ensuring the requirements are met and communicating with their teacher what they are feeling comfortable with and where additional support is needed.