Tip: Be mindful of the learning gaps that students have when designing your writing assignment.

I. Common Learning Gaps that Impact Writing Assignments

Knowledge: What do the students need to know?
Skills: What do the students need to learn how to do?
Motivation: What attitudes or beliefs do the students need to have or overcome?
Environment: What contexts, resources, and tools do they need to complete the assignment?
Communication: Is the assignment sufficiently clear and detailed?

II. Solutions to Common Learning Gaps

Knowledge → Curricular Materials, Research, Discussion, Informal Writing
Skills → Practice, Scaffolding, Sequencing, Review, Revision
Motivation → Choice, Competency, Relevance, Support
Environment → Instructor, Peers, Tutors, Learning Centers, Labs, Library Resources, Online Resources (e.g., Excelsior OWL), Tools, Technology, Reasonable Time Expectations
Communication → Clear Instructions, Templates, Models, Rubrics