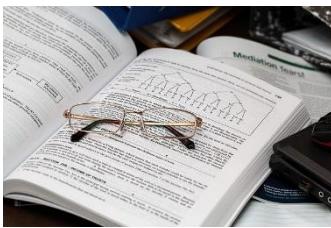


Alternative Assessments

TIP 1



Open Book Exams

Open book exams are ideal for questions that require synthesis of ideas from different parts of the text. Synthesis questions allow for assessing multiple concepts in one question, potentially reducing the number of questions. When preparing an open book exam, consider questions that ask students to generate new examples of a concept rather than repeat an example from the text. Stress to students the importance of reviewing their text in advance to ensure they can readily access key information and features. Last, communicate in advance if students can use resources (such as the web) in addition to the text and how to cite those sources. Check out this brief [video for tips and ideas](#) to prepare students for an open book exam.

TIP 2



Alternative Response Formats

Consider offering students options for demonstrating their knowledge. For example, two alternate formats for a written response could be a short narrative or an email. For questions that assess students' knowledge of relationships among concepts, perhaps offer visual response options such as flow charts, concept maps, or diagrams. For questions that require detailed explanations, consider offering students the option to respond with a video or audio recording.

For questions about these tips, contact angela.lanier@montgomerycollege.edu.

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"Teaching Tips of the Month" began as a project of Program for Active Learning in STEM (PALS) and Teaching to Increase Diversity and Equity in STEM (TIDES) grants. Many thanks to Ray Gonzales and Alla Webb, who served as Principal Investigators of the TIDES grants. You can view archived Teaching Tips of the Month on [The Hub](#). We welcome feedback and invite you to submit ideas for this publication to Angela Lanier, angela.lanier@montgomerycollege.edu