



College Readiness Assignments for Texas

15-minute Quick Start

Welcome to CRAFTx.org!

We are excited that you are interested in learning more about College Readiness Assignments (CRAs)! To introduce you to the CRAs, we created this 15-minute Quick Start. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at craftxcontact@gmail.com.

Introduction

[College Readiness Assignments for Texas \(CRAFT\)](#) is a project based at The University of Texas at Austin and is supported by a generous grant from the [Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board \(THECB\)](#). As part of the CRAFT project, high school and college educators collaborated to develop assignments aligned to the Texas College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS). CRAs are also aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) in order to assist instructors with integrating the CRAs into their current curriculum.

One of the goals of the CRAFT project is to address the misalignment that currently exists between the ways of thinking and doing in high school learning versus those expected in college and careers. Many students experience difficulty when they reach professional positions or college classrooms because these environments require skills of reading, research, and critical thinking rather than an exclusive focus on discrete content knowledge. Cross-disciplinary reasoning and critical thinking are precisely the skills that CRAs seek to instill and improve in students.

In order to determine the usability and effectiveness of the CRAs, CRAFT invited high school and college educators across Texas to field test the assignments during the 2012-2013 school year. More than 50 faculty in 18 institutions, including high schools, community colleges, and four-year institutions, participated in the field test; these faculty delivered CRA instruction to more than 3,500 students.

As a result of the field test, we know that faculty found the College Readiness Assignments overall helpful, usable, and effective in improving college and career readiness. In addition, assessments given throughout the field test indicate that there was a statistically significant increase in 16 of 19 dimensions of students' college and career readiness. Furthermore, based on the feedback faculty provided, CRAFT revised the CRAs and Scoring Guides to improve their usability prior to the statewide launch.

Get to know the College Readiness Assignments.

On the CRAFTx.org website, click the ['Resources' tab](#); then view the 'Anatomy of a CRA' video.

Get to know the Scoring Guides.

Also on the ['Resources' tab](#), view the 'Anatomy of a Scoring Guide' video.

Start using CRAs!

Now that you have been introduced to the purpose, structure, and content of the CRAs, we encourage you to explore the CRAs available and consider ways they fit into your curriculum. As you make plans to implement the CRAs, we recommend you check out the other videos and handouts on the Resources page. Thank you for all you do for Texas education!