

ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT: FINAL SUPERPOWER PRODUCT PROJECT

Purpose

This assessment and grading resource draws on UDL principles to maximize student engagement by incorporating flexibility, relevance, and choice. The assessment allows students to demonstrate their knowledge of the course content and their critical thinking skills while allowing them to select their own topic/superpower of choice to research.

Overview

The Science of Superpowers course allows students to learn about the real science behind some fictional superpowers and the final assessment asks them to apply what they have learned to design a hypothetical product to grant super human abilities. The assessment embeds a scaffolded approach with planning questions and steps to support the students in completing their work successfully. Five key planning questions allow students to carefully reflect about and consider their chosen topic. Once the research phase is completed, the final piece is a creative sales pitch that builds in more choice and flexibility for students. Students can create any type of advertisement for the final part of the project as long as it fulfills the rubric requirements.

Context

This assessment has been successfully used in the Science of Superpowers course and can be easily adapted to fit any subject matter while retaining key principles of flexibility and choice.

Impact

Students differ in the ways they can navigate a learning environment and express what they know. By offering students choice in how they demonstrate what they have learned, they have an opportunity to share what they have found particularly interesting about the course and explain what they have learned about the topic that interests them most. A carefully constructed rubric allows students choice in the format of their submission.