

The Ideal Graduate Activity: Writing Learning Outcomes

Think of the ideal graduate from your program:

What knowledge, skills, and abilities do they possess?

Steps to Facilitating an Ideal Graduate Activity

1. *Brainstorm.* Freewrite or write each separate thought on a new post-it.

Individually or as a group, write freely in response to the question above. If each person, record separate ideas on individual post-it note, the group can sort, organize, and theme ideas generated.

2. *Theme.* Look for commonalities, cluster, connect ideas.

Analyze what you have written for the common themes, clusters, and major ideas. In what ways are separate ideas connected? If you are using post-it notes, sort and organize notes into piles of related concepts.

3. *Draft into Statements.* Try writing outcome statements by completing the following sentence: By the end of this program, students will be able to...

Working with themes, begin drafting learning outcomes statements using resources such as action verb lists and effective qualities of learning outcomes statements.

Follow Up: If you are reviewing multiple programs, apply the above activity to each program separately. What differentiates the ideal graduate from one program from the ideal graduate of a similar but distinct program?

