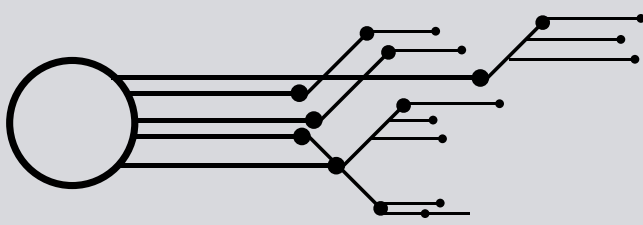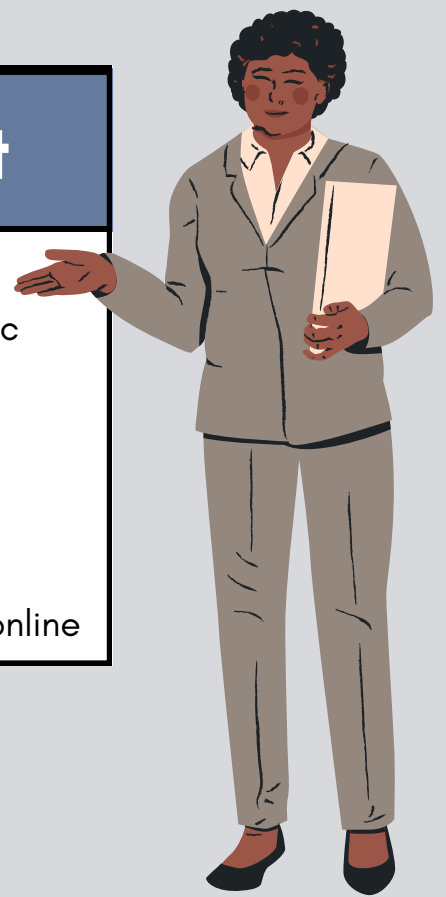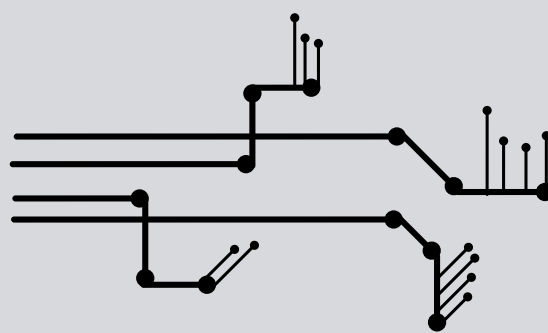# Designing Assignment Prompts for Human Learning

Avoid Assignments That

- Summarize a source
- Deliver broad information on an established general topic
- Analyze materials (such as a classic novel) when similar analyses openly exist online
- Share un-verifiable personal reflection details
- Critique topics that are openly critiqued in similar ways online

Require

- Properly incorporate a specific number of scholarly sources in a particular format
- Explain how specific supporting information connects back to course content (thereby making new knowledge)
- Define a discipline-specific organization for the project, ideally providing a concise outline

Human-focused Activities

- Put students in pairs. Assign an audio pre-write conversation before the students begin writing.
- Assign a class presentation pre-write before students begin writing, with class Q&A time.
- Require students visit a Writing Center tutor to talk about their project.
- In class, ask students to pair and share progress/plans/challenges for various stages of drafting, including outlining, setting up topic sentences for each paragraph, and first draft writing.
- Put students in teams to complete group assignments, ideally about real-world scenarios (such as interviewing locals to build an oral history, or working with a service-learning client)