Crafting Intention and Reflection Prompts
The importance of intention for students

- Ground and guide their experience
- Establish clear goals and purpose
- Prepare them to critically engage with their own learning
- Explain the purpose for engaging in this experience
- Linking the upcoming experience directly to their personal education and development
- Consider how this experience might impact their future.
Use prompts that encourage students to articulate their intentions clearly and go beyond listing what they will learn in the immediate future. Here are some example prompts:
Sample prompts

– In your opinion, how does the process of creating this product/piece of work/program relate to this course? How does the process of creating this influence your education beyond this course?

– Explain the goal of your project: What do you hope your final paper produces for the organization and for this class? Examine and explain what you hope to gain from this experience in terms of personal, educational, and/or career goals. Explain the impact (on others or on the field) that you hope to make through this project.
Activity

– Choose one of your courses where you have incorporated applied learning. Write an intention prompt for your students based on this course.
The Importance of Critical Reflection in Applied Learning projects for students

– Reflect back on what they’ve learned and experienced
– Establish the skills they gained
– See the impact their work will have on their own future and the future of others
Things to consider:

- When explaining the importance of reflections to your students, let them know that this is an opportunity for their thoughts to be heard. We need to make them see this as an opportunity more so than a chore.
- You should tie your prompts to your project whenever possible and encourage your students to think critically.
- Avoid questions that could be answered with simple lists, yes or no responses, or with a single sentence.
- Ideally, prompts will ask students to explore their learning and then address the ‘why’ and ‘how’ and discourage students from simply listing their responses or given vague answers.
Use prompts to ask students to think more deeply about their learning and encourage them to think beyond this semester and beyond themselves; add follow-up questions to make sure students give you a full, thoughtful answer. Here are just a couple of examples followed by [ETEAL SLO]:

[ETEAL SLO]
Sample prompts

- Were you able to apply the things you learned in this experience and in your prior courses in this project? How so? How do you think you’ll be able to apply these skills in the future? [Application of knowledge]

- What challenges did you face in this experience? How did you address them, and why did you approach the challenge the way you did? Are there any alternate approaches you might take if given that challenge again? [Critical Reflection]
Sample prompts

– How will the work you did in this project impact your future professional or academic career? How do you think this project will impact future students? Your discipline as a whole? Your community? What other impact do you think this project might have on others? [Evaluation of Impact]
Based on your intention prompts...

– Write TWO reflection prompts for your applied learning course
Assess your prompts! Do they follow these guidelines?

– You should tie your prompts to your project whenever possible and encourage your students to think critically.

– Avoid questions that could be answered with simple lists, yes or no responses, or with a single sentence.

– Ideally, prompts will ask students to explore their learning and then address the ‘why’ and ‘how’ and discourage students from simply listing their responses or given vague answers.
Do your own intention and reflections!

– In your workbook – Intention worksheet and Reflection worksheet
– Take a few minutes to complete the reflection worksheet
– Discuss