Assignment Option 1
Write an eight- to ten-page research paper on therapeutic touch. Follow APA conventions for documentation.

Assignment Option 2
You are a staff nurse at a large urban hospital. Recently, the hospital became embroiled in a major controversy when several nurses were discovered to be practicing TT on patients without the permission or knowledge of their supervisors or attending physicians. The hospital's governing board overturned the nurses' decision to forbid the practice of TT. Support your position with reasoning and evidence based on the professional literature.

Assignment Option 3
Assume that you and several colleagues seek grant funding to do a controlled research study on the efficacy of TT for reducing anxiety and pain in surgery patients. Research the current professional literature on TT and then write the "review of the literature" section of your grant proposal.
Assignments Leading to Closed-Form Thesis-Governed Writing

- Assignments leading to closed-form thesis-governed writing
- Microtheme assignments for writing-to-learn (includes an analysis of student microthemes in physics)
- More open forms: alternatives to the thesis-governed paper
- A potpourri of other kinds of alternative assignments

Chapters two and four provide a rationale for closed-form, thesis-governed writing—the prototypical structure for most academic prose. Because thesis-governed writing does not come naturally to students, teachers need to encourage it. The following strategies suggest ways that you can teach students to write closed-form prose that addresses a problem with stakes.

Present a Proposition (Thesis) for Students to Defend or Refute

In this strategy, the teacher's task is to develop arguable propositions that engage students with disciplinary controversies.

In recent years, advertising has (has not) made enormous gains in portraying women as strong, independent, and intelligent. [Cultural studies]

The overriding religious view expressed in Hamlet is (is not) an existential atheism similar to Sartre's. [Literature]

Prescribing Ritalin and other psychotropic medications is (is not) an appropriate treatment for behavioral problems of children. [Nursing]

This proposed bridge design does not meet the criteria set forth by the city in its request for proposal. [Civil engineering]

Schizophrenia is a brain disease/schizophrenia is learned behavior. [Psychology]
Assign a Thesis-Governed Paper Requiring Analysis of Raw Data

Another effective way to guide students toward thesis-governed arguments is to give them raw data (such as lists, graphs, tables) to analyze and have them write a thesis-governed paper based on the data. The meaning induced from the data becomes the writer's thesis. Selected pieces of the data serve as evidence.

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<th>Create &quot;Strong Response&quot; Assignments Based on One or More Scholarly Articles or Other Readings</th>
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| **To what extent do the attached economic data support the hypothesis?** Social service spending is inversely related to economic growth. First, create a scattergram as a visual test of the hypothesis. Then create a verbal argument analyzing whether the data support the hypothesis. [Economics]

You and your friend are looking over the attached table and note that in 1998, the median income for all families was $33,400 but the mean income was $53,000. Your friend was confused about the difference between median and mean and didn't see any significance in this difference. Send your friend a well-structured email message, about one screen in length, that explains the difference between median and mean and then gives your answer to the following question: What can we say about the distribution of income in the United States if we know that mean income is considerably higher than median income? [General education mathematics] |

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<tr>
<th>Do animals have rights? Read the assigned article by Peter Singer. In a short essay, set up the question and then set forth the strongest objection that a naysayer might make to Singer. Don't force this paper reveal your own view. [First year seminar]</th>
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<td>Read the speech President Barack Obama delivered at Cairo University in Egypt on June 4, 2009. Summarize the main argument of his speech and then analyze the rhetorical strategies he used to appeal to Muslim listeners and readers. [Communication]</td>
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(Continued)
A mathematics professor asks students to write their own math and

equations, expressing their personal understanding or vision of the role of the

professor in which they reflect on their past math history and experiences.

A woman's studies professor asks students to create myths of parables

exclusively from the student's point of view. This exercise is designed to

encourage students to encounter an "other" whose sphere of experience differs

from their own. The idea is for the student to write a "prose" of the person

interviewed. The idea is for the student and interviewer to view each

other's perspective very differently from the student's and then

express these differences in a different myth.

A literature teacher has students rewrite a historical narrative from a different

point of view. This exercise encourages the student to consider the

narrative from the perspective of a different author.

Critical discourse

of the other rather than the point is to engage the issues in an active and

transformative way. The goal of this dialogue is not to have a clear victory for one side

within the field of discourse, but to have a clearer vision of a new perspective.

In this course, when we read, we will be exploring this concept and examining how we have seen

ourselves in the past and discovering the richness of ideas and perspectives that

can be drawn from the same text. What we will try to do is to develop this new perspective from our own

perspective and to develop our own unique range of ideas. Each project

will be a reflection of the ideas we have explored in the class and developed.

A psychology professor asks his students to write a poem from the

perspective of a schizophrenic. The idea is for the students to learn

about the experience of a mental health disorder, to develop a sense of empathy,

and then to express that empathy in a creative way.

A religious studies professor asks students to write a dialogue

with a deity. (from Carr and Young, 1961)

Phenomenological studies show that the role of the professor is moving toward a more

active role in the classroom. The professor is no longer a passive observer, but a

facilitator who encourages students to engage in critical thinking and reflection.

These days, professors are encouraged to engage in interdisciplinary projects

and to explore the boundaries of their fields. The idea is to encourage

creative thinking and to foster a new way of understanding the world.

Many other kinds of assignments remain, what follows, in no particular

Formal Assignments

A Portfolio of Other Kinds of Alternative

Engaging Ideas
Paper #1: Recommendation Memo

EXHIBIT 13.1