

Designing Skill Cues Checklist

Skill cues are words or short phrases designed to help students remember, retain and apply, the *critical steps/parts* of a skill. There is not an established set of skill cues that are the “right” ones. In fact, designing skill cues that are relevant for YOUR students will be more meaningful (just make sure that you are consistent).

Here are some things to consider as you are designing your skill cues:

- What are the critical elements of the skill that students must perform in order for the skill to be applied effectively?
- What type of skill cues will work best for your students?
 - Should it be an acronym?
 - Should you use familiar words?
 - Should it be a song or “jingle”?
 - Should it be funny?
 - How many skill cues can my students remember and apply?
- Do my skill cues clearly connect to the critical element of the skill?
- Can I use these skill cues to effectively model the skill for my students?

For example, a student shared that a teacher used “CRAP” as an acronym to help students remember how to check the reliability and validity of journal articles.

The teacher would say, “Is it CRAP?” C=current, R=research, A=authors, P=peer reviewed