

Nina Namaste's assignment offers a compelling example of what the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) calls ["Signature Work"](#)

The assignment invites the student to complete a project that he or she cares passionately about. It asks the student to put a metaphorical signature on the project, as if to say, "This work shows my own learning, in my own way, about something that matters to me." The assignment also intends to prompt multidimensional learning and to be integrative. It addresses more than one Essential Learning Outcome of the [LEAP Framework](#). It also addresses more than one of the categories of learning of the [Degree Qualifications Profile](#), specifically asking the student to demonstrate integration and to apply learning gained throughout general education. Signature work can guide students as they cross boundaries among fields of knowledge, skills, and dispositions.

With its careful scaffolding and attention to transfer of knowledge and abilities, a project like this can serve as a capstone at either the associate or the baccalaureate degree level. Because it is aligned with nationally respected learning outcomes frameworks—LEAP and the DQP—it provides a robust demonstration of a student's learning and reliable evidence of degree-level proficiency.

--Susan Albertine, Senior Scholar, Association of American Colleges and Universities