



LDC Teaching Task Pitfall Checklist

After carefully reviewing a Teaching Task's Overview, Task Prompt, Standards, and Texts, determine whether or not one or more Teaching Task Pitfalls are present. If a Pitfall is present, provide an explanation and feedback to help the authors understand the pitfall and what revisions they might consider to correct the pitfall.

Teaching Task Pitfall Name & Description	YES	NO
1) Template and Task Mismatch. Is there a misalignment between the author's apparent purpose and the selected task template's writing mode and/or cognitive demand that is likely to lead to problematic student responses?		
2) Problematic Text(s). Are the selected texts either too lengthy or too many in number, too short or too few in number, or otherwise not appropriate given the grade-level, discipline, and/or purpose of the task?		
3) Task Answerable without the Texts. Are the selected texts or the way in which the teaching task prompt is constructed likely to lead students to respond in a way that makes little or no meaningful use of the texts?		
4) Texts "Answer" the Question—No Room for Multiple Responses. Are the selected texts or the way in which the teaching task prompt is constructed likely to lead students to superficially summarize those texts, largely eliminating a rigorous reading and writing experience?		
5) Lack of Centrality to the Discipline. Are the teaching task and/or the texts significantly misaligned to the core literacy and/or content demands of the selected discipline?		
6) Content Too Broad, Narrow, or Not Worthy of Time Investment. Is the specific topic or selected content of the teaching task framed either too broadly or narrowly for a meaningful and rigorous learning experience? Or is the topic or content generally not worthy of the time investment?		
7) Built-In Bias. Is the teaching task constructed in such a way that will almost certainly result in most or all students providing a rigid predetermined response? Is there little or no room for a variety of rigorous, nuanced student responses?		
8) Grand Thematic or Flawed Question. Does the teaching task prompt include an optional question that is overly broad -- like an "essential" question -- that students aren't actually meant to respond to, OR is the optional question completely redundant or does it in any way contradict the rest of the prompt?		
<i>If any Pitfalls are present, provide an explanation and feedback:</i>		
<i>If a Teaching Task pitfall is present, consider providing feedback and hold off on full review of Teaching Task and/or Instructional Ladder until pitfall is corrected.</i>		