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TABLE 6.1 Four Criteria for High Quality Performance Assessment

CRITERIA	LOOKS LIKE
Elicits evidence of skills and knowledge that matter	Design tasks that ask students to demonstrate their ability to apply transferable, real-world skills including the following: Solve challenges involving authentic problems Form cross-curricular connections Apply higher-order thinking processes Make social-emotional learning visible
Is tight on quality criteria while open to different approaches	Explicitly communicate a sharp focus on what's being measured and provide descriptive criteria for evaluating student work: Provide clear performance outcomes articulated in a rubric or similar assessment tool Offer exemplars (i.e., student work samples) of what quality looks like Allow the learner to exercise a significant amount of choice in terms of the learning process and product
3. Is authentic	Prioritize real work, real results, and real examples, asking students to engage in the real work that adults do in the world: Shape tasks around a real purpose such that students are solving actual problems, contributing to a real need, or pitching an idea to a real audience Expose students to the work of adult experts in the field as models
Offers a learning experience in and of itself	Present opportunities to learn for both students and their teachers: Incorporate moments to reflect, gather feedback, and revise Reject the idea of a "one and done" assessment Push all parties to identify how the task has revealed growth or gaps and how that might inform next steps

Source: Envision Learning Partners.