Cracking the Code

How to decipher assignments
Let’s try it.

- What is the thing you look for first?
- Can you divide it up?
- How do you get a paper out of that?
Anatomy of an Assignment

- B-Beginning
- O- Organization and Content
- N- Nit-picky Stuff
- D- Due Date
Beginning

* Introduction and purpose
* Usually kind of vague or general
* What the professor wants you to accomplish/learn from the assignment
Organization and Content

* What you’re actually supposed to do.
* Set of questions to answer
* How many texts or sources you need
* What tools you’re supposed to use
Nit-picky Stuff

* Length
* Font/ Margins
* Citation style
* Conferences
* Grammar
* Rubric
Due Date

* Know how much time your professor expects you to spend on the paper.

* Make sure you fulfill all the requirements in a timely manner
“Compare Hobbes and Locke, two seventeenth century Englishmen who lived in a period of civil war. Both came to theorize about the nature of man, the nature of the state, and the relationship between man and state. In particular, they discussed something they called the “social contract.” You should compare these two thinkers’ ideas about these subjects. Here are some important questions you might consider: How do Locke and Hobbes view man in a state of nature? What is the role of property for each thinker? How does each thinker view man’s nature? According to each thinker, how rational is man? How does each thinker view man’s rights and the idea of natural law? How does each thinker understand the nature and function of government? What does the “social contract” mean to each thinker? Where do a government’s powers come from for Locke and Hobbes? What is the limit of a government's powers for each? Why do men create government?”
Problematic Assignments

* Don’t be afraid to ask your professor for help!
  * Email
  * Office hours
  * Before/after class

* Come to the CRC!
Application

* Use BOND
Wrapping it up

* Take it in chunks
* BOND
* If you get lost, ask for help