# Essential Design Step Three: Plan your Learning Materials

Now that you have your Learning Outcomes and Assignment Plan completed, it’s time to start thinking about what content you will need to include in your course.

## Essential Content

* In the first column, list resources that you know you will have to include in the course. This might be a textbook, an important outside reading, or lectures you have (or will have to create) on a particular topic.
* In the second column, indicate if this is something you need to find or create. If you are using a tried-and-true reading, for example, you won’t need to do anything else to include it in your online course. If you’re using a PPT presentation from the face-to-face classroom, however, you may need to chunk it up, use more graphics and less text, and narrate over your slides. Make any notes related to edits that you would like.
* If it is a new piece of content that you need to find, a brief description, such as “reading, handout or video on proper use of the comma” will suffice. Type is not as important right now as ensuring that students get the information in some form. Once you’ve listed your content, you can look at it holistically to ensure that you have varied types.
* The third and fourth columns are where you continue to check for alignment. List the number of the learning outcome that the material supports, as well as any assignment(s) it is aligned with. This will vary. A textbook, for example, may support all learning outcomes and all assignments, while a narrated presentation may only support one or two learning outcomes and/or assignments.
* This is just a “first pass” for materials you will need, and helps to ensure that the content you choose supports student achievement of your learning outcomes. When you begin on the next guide, **Organizing your Course**, you will also have the opportunity to check for gaps and redundancies for both content and assignments.

## Table of Essential Content

| Description of content | Need to find or create? | Supports learning outcome? | Supports assignment? |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Add your information |  |  |  |