

Assessments

How and why you provide a variety of graded elements to students.

Do you use formative assessments? Summative? Both? Do you wonder, “are my students getting it?”

Use multiple assessment types to engage learners in a variety of ways. Consider using assessments as an opportunity for students to express themselves, to demonstrate what they are learning, to practice skills, to reflect on their performance and level of understanding. Not all students compose great prose. Not all students are fabulous test takers. Provide multiple options for your students to excel in your class. “Active assessment strategies enhance student content understanding and promote skills ... beneficial to students throughout their lives.”

¹ See the sidebar for examples of different ideas.

PERFORMANCE-BASED ASSESSMENT

Performance-based (Authentic) ² assessment requires students to demonstrate their ability to think critically and to apply the skills and knowledge they are learning. Encourage students to practice new skills and demonstrate understanding, increase their possibility to learn more and remember what they’ve learned longer.

By using different assessment types you help students develop effective oral and written skills as well as the ability to work with their peers. A likely bi-product (collateral learning) that your students become more comfortable with current technology.

FORMATIVE AND SUMMATIVE

Formative assessment supports teachers and students in decision-making during educational and learning processes. Summative assessment occurs at the end of a learning unit and determines if the content being taught was retained. ³ Combine assessment types, assessments and methods to empower your students.

LEARN MORE

- <http://serc.carleton.edu/sp/library/pedagogies.html>
- <http://serc.carleton.edu/introgeo/instructionalmethod.html#teaching>

¹ <http://serc.carleton.edu/introgeo/assessment/strategies.html>

² <http://jfmuller.faculty.noctrl.edu/toolbox/>

³ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Formative_assessment

⁴ <http://serc.carleton.edu/sp/library/pedagogies.html>

⁵ <http://serc.carleton.edu/sp/library/assessment/index.html>

The SERC portal for Educators at Carleton lists teaching methods ⁴ and ways to blend assessment strategies ⁵ in your classroom.

METHODS

- Coached problem solving
- Cooperative learning
- Experience-based environmental projects

ASSESSMENTS

- Portfolios
- Knowledge survey
- Peer review

Carletons’ page on Teaching Methods contains great resources like: First day of class, stimulating excitement about the course, interactive lectures, how to break up a lecture and/or engage students in activities that demonstrate their prior understanding of a core concept.

I reviewed “Models” and “Teaching with Data.” Both provided clear examples with strong support for use these materials in a science environment. — Janene McMahan

Even more! The footer link shows an effort map that include scores indicating instructor and student effort for creation and completion of the assessment.