

Hello teachers!

Happy Friday! To all of our veterans and their families, my greatest appreciation for your service. We are indeed free because of the brave. Thank you!

Today, I'd like to test you. Not fair, right? Did you even get a chance to study?!

Let's talk assessments. For our first-year students, there's an entire class dedicated to assessing students. That class is offered every spring and is typically taken during your second year in the program.

Here are some good guidelines for thinking about assessments.

1. There are 3 major categories. Formative assessments help you know what your students know while you are teaching. Summative assessments help you know what your students know after your teaching. Diagnostic assessments help you know what your students know before you teach anything. ALL are very important! Too many times we rush into teaching without doing the correct diagnostic assessment. As you are planning your unit and the associated lesson plans, run the diagnostic assessments BEFORE you teach! It will save you time, help you concentrate on the problem areas, and prevent student boredom. It will allow you to differentiate!
2. Formative assessments should be occurring all the time. Don't be afraid to ask students questions like "how did that lesson go today?". Formative assessments are gauges for your students' learning and your instruction. Embrace them!
3. Consider trying new some assessments! Here are just a few.

Formative Assessments	
Alignment & WISE feedback framework	Peer Engaged
Knowledge checks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drill review pairs• Send-a-problem• Direct paraphrasing
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Retrieval practice• Muddiest point• One sentence summaries• Quick quiz	Application
Processing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus-listing• Categorizing activity• Concept mapping or visualization• Fishbowl debate• Gallery walk• Analytic Teams
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Double journaling / Perusal• Principle or problem recognition task• Critique along the way	

To learn more about these strategies, go here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/12tLDzV-uA4NrSvc5Nq8WSPTGnakzsj-o/view?usp=sharing>

Assessment is a part of your teaching. Assessment is not an afterthought of your teaching.

Here's a promise, if you spend more time designing assessments and gathering student feedback, your students will learn more, and you will teach better. I promise. So think just as hard with your assessments as you do with the slide deck you are crafting.

Lastly, start with the end in mind. What will you ultimately want your students to prove they know? If you don't know, stop teaching. How are you going to teach without understanding what to teach?

There's a whole world of assessing out there. Try out some new strategies. Gain feedback all the time, and you will ultimately spend less time "insructing" and more time teaching!

Happy Weekend! Rest Up!
MK

P.S. Register for spring!

P.S.S. If you try a new assessment this week, let me know how it goes!