

# Assessment Alternative Ideas

Interested in trying something new? Considering mixing up the assessments in your course? Start by asking yourself the questions in our assessment [planning questionnaire](#).

Think about your responses as you explore some alternatives to term papers, quizzes, and exams. We have organized these ideas by goals, activity types, the time required, and the skills needed. You will find a list of helpful resources at the end of this document.

Note: Many of these ideas could be either individual or group work. Consider scaffolding your activities. For example, students could submit outlines and drafts of a project for review before submitting the final version.

## Writing

- Creative writing: poetry, short stories, movie script
- Blog
- Review an article, book, play, performance
- Learning reflection
- Write a new chapter
- Autobiography for fictional characters
- Op-ed

## Verbal Communication

- Presentation
- Student-facilitated group discussion
- Debate
- Poster session
- Speech
- Develop questions and facilitate a group discussion
- Student-led lectures

## Design

- Advertisement
- Brochure
- Museum display
- Game or puzzle

- Time capsule
- Timeline
- Website

## Media Production

- Personal video testimonial
- Photo journal
- Public service announcement video
- Podcast
- StoryMaps
- Oral history
- Create a song
- Create a painting
- Mini-documentary

## Research

- Literature review
- Case study
- Design a survey and collect responses
- Research a family tree
- Analyze and visualize data

## Methods and Process Students Will Use in Their Future Careers

- Executive summary
- Draft resume/CV
- Project proposal and plan
- Plan a budget
- Outline a strategic plan
- Case study
- Microteaching
- Portfolio

## Resources

- [7 Approaches to Alternative Assessments \(ASCD\)](#)

- [Non-Traditional Assessment Models \(DePaul University\)](#)
- [Alternatives to Traditional Exams and Papers \(Indiana University\)](#)
- [Alternative Assessments \(U of Minn CEI\)](#)