Assessment in the Classroom

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Take a moment and think about what the word “assessment” means to you.
What are Assessments?

• According to The Glossary of Education Reform, assessments are
  • “… the wide variety of methods or tools that educators use to evaluate, measure, and document the academic readiness, learning progress, skill acquisition, or educational needs of students.”
How Do You Assess Learning?

• Check what students already know
  • Compare to state or district standards

• Provide a Variety of Assessments
  • Alternative
    • Assessments that are not multiple choice or one shot approaches
  • Authentic
    • Assessments that involve real-life tasks that are relevant
  • Performance
    • Assessments that involve students being observed by teachers or an audience while performing a presentation, speech, or demonstration
Why are Assessments Important?

For the Student:
• Drives Student Learning
• Improve Performance from Feedback
• Identify Strengths and Weaknesses
• Provides Involvement of Learning

For the Teacher:
• Adjust Teaching Strategies
• Differentiating Instruction
• Check for Student Understanding
• Reduce Achievement Gaps Between Students
Formative & Summative Assessments

• Formative
  • Part of the instructional process
    • Provides students with a chance to “practice” learning goals
    • Checks student understanding during the learning process

• Summative
  • Given at the end of a lesson, unit, or certain time period
    • Meant to gauge student learning relative to standards
    • Often known as High Stakes Assessments
High Stakes Assessments

• Assessments in which penalties or decisions are determined by the outcomes or results of the assessment.
  • High Stakes Assessments decide:
    • School Accreditation
    • Graduation
    • Promotion of Grade Levels
    • Certification
    • Course Credit
Methods of Assessment in the Classroom

**Formative**
- Exit Slips
- Self-assessments (checklist)
- One Sentence Summary
- Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down
- Providing Feedback

**Summative**
- Standardized State Assessments
- District Benchmarks
- Final Projects or Performances
- End of Unit Tests
- Chapter Tests
Methods of Assessment in the Classroom

- Discussions
- Creating Brochures
- Graphic Organizers
- Midterm Exams
- Written Paper
- Creation of a Web Page
When Should You Give An Assessment?

- Formative assessments should be given consistently throughout the learning process
- Summative assessments should only be given at the end of a lesson or unit
How to Choose the “Right” Assessment

• Determine your learning goals for students and match them to assessments
• Use a variety of assessments
  • Formative & Summative
    • Authentic, Alternative, Performance
• Assessment Intervals
• Collecting Data Purposes
Learners need endless feedback more than they need endless teaching.

-Grant Wiggins
Questions or Comments over Assessments?
References


