

Assessment methods and feedback



Context



Online learning may have posed some challenges for educators, but motivating students to learn and grow remains a constant goal. Assessing students in meaningful ways can help motivate and empower them to grow as they become agents of their own learning. Assessments can be difficult to structure properly and time-consuming to grade. As a teacher, you know that student progress isn't just a number on a report card. There's so much more to assessments than delivering an end-of-unit exam or prepping for a standardized test. Assessments help shape the learning process at all points, and give you insights into student learning.

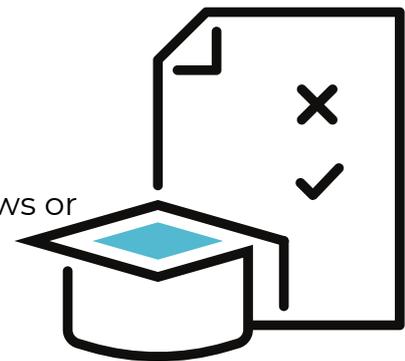


Type of assessments

Diagnostic assessment

Diagnostic assessment help you identify the progress of your students **prior** to engaging in different instruction or tests.

Diagnostics can take the form of short quizzes, student interviews or reflections, graphic organizers and more.



Formative assessment

Formative assessment provides students with feedback on progress and identifies areas for improvement and provides teaching staff with information on where their students need to improve. Formative assessment can take the form of problem sheets, MCQs, In class discussion and feedback, online discussion and blogs, research activities and more.

Summative assessment

Summative assessment occurs at a chosen point in instruction and results in the **final form** of a grade. These grades are quite often used as a means to identify the level of achievement of learning outcomes by students. The reports obtained from these summative assessments provide the evidence of student achievement related to learning.



What is feedback?

Once you've **assessed** what the learner is doing well and what they need to do in order to improve, the purpose of **feedback** is to give that information back to the learner. Feedback can come from many places: from the teacher, from other learners or from the student himself and can take many forms: written, oral, visuals, etc. When students receive effective feedback, it helps them to understand **where they are in terms of the objective or outcome, where they should be, and how to close the gap between the two.**

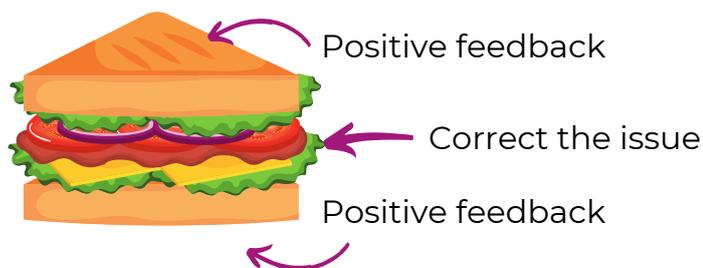


How to give feedback?

Feedback should be educative.

Keep in mind that it is better for a student's learning when they are provided with an explanation and example as to what is accurate and inaccurate about their work.

Try using the sandwich method:



Ask the right questions.

Effective feedback is structure around these four main questions:

1. What can the student do?
2. What can't the student do?
3. How does it compare to other students?
4. How can the student do better?

Present Feedback Carefully

The way the feedback is presented can have an impact on how it is received. Some students need to be pushed, others respond to gentler approaches, so approach feedback individually, and depending on the student's needs.



Involve Learners in the Process

A learner cannot improve passively. Having the student understand his performance, and the reasoning behind it cannot be understated. Overall, involving students in the process will help them recognize mistakes and develop strategies for tackling weak points themselves.



One-on-one feedback session

Private feedback sessions are most effective. Students appreciate the attention, and feel comfortable asking questions and engage. Keep the session optimistic, for the students to look forward to the next one.

Feedback should be well timed

Give immediate feedback whenever possible. Studies show that timely feedback is more effective than given days or weeks later, and that students are more prone to understand the content afterwards.



Resources

Find additional ideas for effective feedback:

- <https://www.teachthought.com/pedagogy/20-ways-to-provide-effective-feedback-for-learning/>

More precise analysis of assessment methods from Charles Sturt University:

- <https://www.csu.edu.au/division/learning-and-teaching/home/assessment-and-moderation/assessment-resources-and-information/assessment-types-and-methods>