

Student Assessment Tools

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Student assessment is essential to any curriculum. It serves two functions.

1. Discover what the student has learned. Some students may have grasped the idea, while others have not.
2. Discover how effective your teaching technique was.

Assessment can take on several forms. It can be written exams, written papers, discussion, oral presentations, or other projects. **Written exams** are a more objective way of assessing student performance. You can use a variety of techniques; multiple choice, fill-in-the blanks, short answer, T/F, labeling and diagramming just to name a few.

**Written papers** usually assess how well the student can find and organize material on a larger scale. If you are going to use written papers for assessment, make sure the rubric is very specific about how you will assess the paper. Several examples are included in this web site.

A good tool to assess students' knowledge is **group discussion**. Be aware that occasionally one or more students may monopolize the conversation and make sure everyone has a chance to participate. As a teacher be aware of who is talking and who is listening. Bring everyone into the conversation. This is a very subjective form of evaluation and can be difficult to assign a grade or points. But can be used to discover if the students are lacking knowledge in certain subject/content areas and the instructor can then review those areas.

Most students learn better working in groups than they do working alone. One way you can assess their progress is to let them complete a group project. This can be a **poster** or **presentation** to the rest of the class.

Assessment is a must for any classroom. You will modify your teaching based on the assessment you receive from your students. Several examples are included on this web site.