

How you assess your students will impact how and what they learn

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Brainstorming activity:

List as many reasons as you can think of to answer the question,
“Why do you assess your students?”

Assessment drives learning for most undergraduates. Changes in assessment methods influence student learning (Walvoord, 2004). Using constructive feedback for improvement, assessment becomes part of the learning process (Suskie, 2004). Participants will distinguish between instructor-centered and learner-centered assessment purposes and processes (Weimer, 2002) and discuss alternative, learner-centered ways to assess students including using formative feedback, peer and self-assessments, authentic assessments (Suskie, 2004), allowing students to demonstrate mastery, and the ability to learn from mistakes.

Suskie, L. (2004). *Assessing student learning*. Bolton, MA: Anker Publishing Company, Inc.

Walvoord, B. E. (2004). *Assessment clear and simple*. San Francisco: Jossey- Bass.

Weimer, M. (2002). *Learner-centered teaching*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

Think of the implications for your behaviors, and more important for what the students learn or do for each of these actions.

What will your students learn or do if you

- assess sporadically

- assess continuously

Think of the implications for your behaviors, and more important for what the students learn or do for this action.

If you integrate learning and assessment what are the implications for your behaviors and for what the students learn and do

(A little background:

You can integrate assessment within the learning process by including opportunities for student learning during assessment activities or by learning activities that incorporate assessments components. Angelo and Cross (1993) describe hundreds of different assessments that can be used quickly during classes. Depending on how you use them, these Classroom Assessment Techniques integrate learning with assessment or assessment within learning.)

Think of the implications for your behaviors, and more important for what the students learn or do for this action.

What will your students learn or do if

- you are the only one who decides if an answer is correct, students cannot question the validity of your judgment

- allow students to justify their answers when they do not agree with the instructor

Think of the implications for your behaviors, and more important for what the students learn or do for this action.

What will your students learn or do if

- the assessments mimic what practitioners or professionals in the discipline do (called authentic assessment)