

“You cannot call it
“formative assessment”
unless instruction is
improved...”
-Popham

Formative *at - a - glance...* Assessment

What matters most?

1. Set clear learning targets and achievable proficiency targets.
2. Allow multiple attempts to meet the learning target.
3. Provide individual and class feedback so student know if they are approaching the target and how well.
4. Weight your grades so that performance weighs more heavily than multiple choice tests and quizzes.
5. Don't use grades as a punishment.
6. Use a variety of informal feedback strategies to provide ongoing, on the spot feedback to students.

WHY?

“Formative assessment can have a transformational effect on teachers and teaching. In a very real way it flips a switch, shining a bright light on individual teaching decisions so that teachers can see clearly (and perhaps for the first time) the difference between the *intent* and the *effect* of their actions. Armed with this new perspective, teachers can take constructive action in their classrooms. They begin to collect and use strong evidence of exactly what works and exactly what does not work in their classrooms, with their students. And as they critically examine their own knowledge, practices, and working assumptions—during each day, during each lesson, and during each interaction with their students—they become inquiry-minded and keenly aware of exactly where they need to focus their change and improvement efforts in order to raise student achievement.”

- Moss and Brookhart*

More Information:

<http://www.iwla.net/Resources/Documents/Formative%20Assessment.pdf>

Advancing Formative Assessment in Every Classroom Moss & Brookhart
<http://www.ascd.org/publications/books/109031/chapters/The-Lay-of-the-Land@-Essential-Elements-of-the-Formative-Assessment-Process.aspx>

Total Participation Techniques Himmele & Himmele
<http://www.ascd.org/publications/books/111037.aspx>

Practical Applications

- Student self-assessment: Have learners observe, analyze, and judge their own performance on the basis of criteria and determining how they can improve it.
- Use a variety of strategies to check for understanding of all students to keep your finger on the pulse of student comprehension.

Making it Personal...

- What specifically can YOU do to become more knowledgeable about formative assessment strategies?
- How can your students lead the formative assessment process? How can they support peers in the same process?

