

Identifying Effective Formative Assessment Practices

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The Formative Assessment Process



- Deliberate process occurring within the teaching and learning cycle
- Has the power to transform professional practice, student learning, and improve outcomes



Formative Assessment Terms: Feedback Loop vs. Test Events

- ✓ Formative Assessment Process
- ✓ Formative Practices
- ~~Formative Assessments~~



The Process, In Short

Formative assessment or formative practices are teacher techniques designed to **quickly inform instruction** by providing **specific and immediate feedback** through **daily, ongoing instructional strategies** that are **student- and classroom-centered**, and that answer "**what comes next for student learning?**"



Characteristics of Effective Formative Assessment Practices

- ✓ Based on specific learning targets and success criteria
- ✓ Designed by teachers
- ✓ Elicits evidence of student learning
- ✓ Informs instruction
- ✓ Involves students
- ✓ Provides specific, actionable, and immediate feedback



Student Involvement

Where am I going?

Where am I now?

How do I get from here to there?



Example 1: Effective Formative Practice



Learning Target:

"I can identify the main idea of an informational text."

Formative Assessment:

- Exit ticket

Formative Assessment Practices:

- Student observation
- Small group instruction based on student needs
(*re-teaching, addressing misconceptions, providing extensions*)
- Recheck for student understanding
- Students set personal learning goals



Example 1: Effective Formative Practice



Learning Target:

- *“I can identify the main idea of an informational text.”*

Characteristics of Effective Formative Assessment Practices:

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Example 2: Effective Formative Practice



Learning Target:

"I can write and solve linear equations"

Formative Assessment:

- Observation of individual whiteboards

Formative Assessment Practices:

- Student observation
- Small group instruction based on student needs
- Instruction was adjusted to provide support
- Recheck for student understanding



Example 2: Effective Formative Practice



Learning Target:

"I can write and solve linear equations"

Characteristics of Effective Formative Assessment Practices:

- ✓ Based on specific learning targets and success criteria
- ✓ Designed by teachers
- ✓ Elicits evidence of student learning
- ✓ Informs instruction
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- ✓ Provides specific, actionable, and immediate feedback



Example 3: Basic Formative Practice



Learning Target:

"I can identify all 12 major muscle groups."

Formative Assessment:

- Quiz

Formative Assessment Practices:

- Immediate Feedback



Example 3: Basic Formative Practice



Learning Target:

"I can identify all of the 12 major muscle groups."

What would make this an effective formative assessment practice?

- Using data to adjust and inform instruction
- Discussing results with the students providing specific and actionable feedback
- Offering support to students who did not perform well on the quiz/providing individualized instruction
- Providing extension opportunities for proficient students



Reminders



- Formative practices must be designed by teachers, based on learning targets, and elicit evidence of student learning
- The formative assessment process always provides specific, actionable, and immediate feedback to both teacher and student
- Use data from the formative assessment process to create groupings and adjust instruction



Additional Resources

Videos:

Introduction to Formative Assessment

<http://dpi.wi.gov/strategic-assessment/cycles-assessment/formative>

Introduction to Strategic Assessment

<http://dpi.wi.gov/strategic-assessment>

The Center on Standards and Assessment Implementation

Examples of the Elements in Action

<http://www.csai-online.org/spotlight/examples-elements-action>

Primary Grade Videos

<http://www.csai-online.org/spotlight/time-investigate>



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