

FORMATIVE ASSESSMENTS

Index Card Summaries/ Questions	Periodically, distribute index cards and ask students to write on both sides, with these instructions: (Side 1) Based on our study of (unit topic), list a big idea that you understand and word it as a summary statement. (Side 2) Identify something about (unit topic) that you do not yet fully understand and word it as a statement or question
Hand Signals	Ask students to display a designated hand signal to indicate their understanding of a specific concept, principal, or process: - I understand _____ and can explain it (e.g., thumbs up). - I do not yet understand _____ (e.g., thumbs down). - I'm not completely sure about _____ (e.g., wave hand).
One Minute Essay	A one-minute essay question (or one-minute question) is a focused question with a specific goal that can, in fact, be answered within a minute or two.
Analogy Prompt	Present students with an analogy prompt: (A designated concept, principle, or process) is like _____ because _____.
Web or Concept Map	Any of several forms of graphical organizers which allow learners to perceive relationships between concepts through diagramming key words representing those concepts. http://www.graphic.org/concept.html
Misconception Check	Present students with common or predictable misconceptions about a designated concept, principle, or process. Ask them whether they agree or disagree and explain why. The misconception check can also be presented in the form of a multiple-choice or true-false quiz
. Student Conference	One on one conversation with students to check their level of understanding.
3-Minute Pause	The Three-Minute Pause provides a chance for students to stop, reflect on the concepts and ideas that have just been introduced, make connections to prior knowledge or experience, and seek clarification. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I changed my attitude about... • I became more aware of... • I was surprised about... • I felt... • I related to... • I empathized with...
Observation	Walk around the classroom and observe students as they work to check for learning. Strategies include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anecdotal records • Conferences • Checklists
Self-Assessment	A process in which students collect information about their own learning, analyze what it reveals about their progress toward the intended learning goals and plan the next steps in their learning.
Exit Card	Exit cards are written student responses to questions posed at the end of a class or learning activity or at the end of a day.
Portfolio Check	Check the progress of a student's portfolio. A portfolio is a purposeful collection of significant work, carefully selected, dated and presented to tell the story of a student's achievement or growth in well-defined areas of performance, such as reading, writing, math, etc. A portfolio usually includes personal reflections where the student explains why each piece was chosen and what it shows about his/her growing skills and abilities.
Journal Entry	Students record in a journal their understanding of the topic, concept or lesson taught. The teacher reviews the entry to see if the student has gained an understanding of the topic, lesson or concept that was taught.
Debriefing	A form of reflection immediately following an activity

Idea Spinner	The teacher creates a spinner marked into 4 quadrants and labeled "Predict, Explain, Summarize, Evaluate." After new material is presented, the teacher spins the spinner and asks students to answer a question based on the location of the spinner. For example, if the spinner lands in the "Summarize" quadrant, the teacher might say, "List the key concepts just presented."
Think-Pair- Share/ Turn to Your Partner	Teacher gives direction to students. Students formulate individual response, and then turn to a partner to share their answers. Teacher calls on several random pairs to share their answers with the class.
Tic-Tac-Toe/ Think-Tac-Toe	A collection of activities from which students can choose to do to demonstrate their understanding. It is presented in the form of a nine square grid similar to a tic-tac-toe board and students may be expected to complete from one to "three in a row". The activities vary in content, process, and product and can be tailored to address DOK levels.
Muddiest (or Clearest) Point	This is a variation on the one-minute paper, though you may wish to give students a slightly longer time period to answer the question. Here you ask (at the end of a class period, or at a natural break in the presentation), "What was the "muddiest point" in today's lecture?" or, perhaps, you might be more specific, asking, for example: "What (if anything) do you find unclear about the concept of 'personal identity' ('inertia', 'natural selection', etc.)?"
Cubing	Display 6 questions from the lesson Have students in groups of 4. Each group has 1 die. Each student rolls the die and answers the question with the corresponding number. If a number is rolled more than once the student may elaborate on the previous response or roll again.
Directed Paraphrasing	Students summarize in well-chosen (own) words a key idea presented during the class period or the one just past.
RSQC2	In two minutes, students recall and list in rank order the most important ideas from a previous day's class; in two more minutes, they summarize those points in a single sentence, then write one major question they want answered, then identify a thread or theme to connect this material to the course's major goal.
Triangular Prism (Red, Yellow, Green)	Students give feedback to teacher by displaying the color that corresponds to their level of understanding.
Gallery Walk	After teams have generated ideas on a topic using a piece of chart paper, they appoint a "docent" to stay with their work. Teams rotate around examining other team's ideas and ask questions of the docent. Teams then meet together to discuss and add to their information so the docent also can learn from other teams.
Onion Ring	Students form an inner and outer circle facing a partner. The teacher asks a question and the students are given time to respond to their partner. Next, the inner circle rotates one person to the left. The teacher asks another question and the cycle repeats itself.

Compiled by K Lambert, OCPS Curriculum Services, 4/2012

Sample Prompts for Formative Assessment

- ***I used to think...Now I think...***
- ***How have I prepared for class today? (Entrance ticket)***
- ***What big question remains from today's lesson (Exit ticket)***