

20 Formative Assessment Examples

- 1. Four Corners:** Gather students in the middle of the room, and read multiple choice questions and their possible answers aloud. Students then move to the corner that represents what they believe is the correct answer. The top-left room corner can be option A, the bottom-left can be B and so on.
- 2. Three Summaries:** Check student understanding of a new topic by asking them to write three summaries of it. The first should be 10 to 15 words. The second is 30 to 50 words. The third is 75 to 100 words.
- 3. Hand It In, Pass It Out:** Pose a question with an objective answer that's explainable in a few sentences. Without writing their names down, students should answer the question on plain sheets of paper. As they hand the papers in to you, quickly distribute them back to students at random. Explain what the correct answer is, so that they can grade the paper they've received.
- 4. Self-Evaluation:** Have students review their own work. After completing an assessment, give each student access to an expanded rubric that details expectations. They should grade themselves accordingly, handing their work and rubric in to you afterwards.
- 5. Partner Quiz:** Pair students together and provide an open question to tackle. Once the pair has answered the question, each student can independently work on a question related to the same concept. Collect responses to wrap up the exercise.
- 6. Highlighter:** Have each student read the same passage or resource, highlighting sentences that seem important or interesting. Then, divide the class into groups. Based on what's highlighted, each group should be able to pinpoint the text's main idea or theme, submitting an explanation so you can determine general comprehension levels.
- 7. Transfer the Concept:** Ensure student understanding isn't restricted to one medium. Suppose you've recently taught how to identify protagonists and antagonists in novels. Watch a clip from a show, movie or perhaps advertisement, and see if students can identify the heroes and villains.
- 8. Think-Pair-Share:** Deliver three content-processing activities in one, assessing comprehension in the last stage. Have each student *think* about a topic. Next, *pair* them together to discuss findings. Finally, each pair should *share* their thoughts with the class.
- 9. Jigsaw:** Divide a task into subtasks, assigning one to each student in a small group. Each student should work to become an "expert" about the information pertaining to his or her



subtask. After this research and investigation process, each student returns to the group, sharing knowledge. The group then writes a report about the overarching topic.

- 10. Stop and Go:** Allow students to give you real-time feedback as you teach with “stop and go” cards. They’re two-sided cards — one green and one red. As you deliver a lesson, students should hold the green side toward you if they understand everything. When you see red, stop and clarify — or expand upon — your points until you see green again.
- 11. Virtual Classroom:** Capitalize on one-to-one device use by automatically sending questions to students as you’re teaching. There are many programs, such as Socrative, that allow you to write questions that correspond with your lessons, pre-scheduling them or sending them to students on the spot.
- 12. Prodigy:** Use Prodigy to gauge your students’ math skills. When they start the curriculum-aligned video game, they dive into a diagnostic test that identifies their strengths and skill deficits to pinpoint their levels of understanding. You can then create individual in-game assignments, which generate reports about progress and performance.
- 13. Illustrations:** Assess young students’ reading, or listening, skills by having them draw content depicting a story passage. If the passage already has an illustration, you can show it to students afterward. This way, they can see how close they were.
- 14. Letters Through Time:** Measure understanding in history class by having students assume the role of a figure related to course content, pairing them together. Each student in the duo must write a series of letters to the other about an event or isolated period that’s historically significant.
- 15. Entry and Exit Tickets:** Give students five minutes to write an entry or exit ticket, having them reflect on content from yesterday or today. This will let you easily see how well they processed and retained your lessons.
- 16. Two Roses and a Thorn:** Deliver this reflection exercise to help determine content for your next class. Each student must note two topics or concepts he or she enjoyed learning about, and another they didn’t like or still have questions about. If students share the same problems, it may indicate a need to re-explore a topic or shift your approach to teaching it.
- 17. Countdown:** Start this activity if you feel the previous one doesn’t provide enough insight. Students must create three lists, stating (a) three ideas or concepts they learned, (b) two ideas or concepts that surprised them and (c) one thing they want to do based on what they learned. Responses should indicate if students largely grasped a day’s material.



- 18. One-Minute Papers:** Inject variety into your end-of-day reflection exercises by asking students to write one-minute papers. The papers must address a brief -- but important -- question about the lesson, allowing you to easily assess understanding.
- 19. Metacognition Sheet:** Pinpoint trouble spots and knowledge gaps before a summative assessment by having students answer specific questions about the given topic. Simply hand out sheets of paper that ask: (a) "Can you summarize the topic?", (b) "How can you apply the topic?" and (c) "What questions do you still have about the topic?"
- 20. Roll the Die:** Put a spin on reflection-based assessments by asking students to vocalize instead of write them. Place a die at each student's desk. Each die face represents the beginning of a sentence that must be completed. These sentences should be along the lines of: "I learned today that ..." or "I'm still confused about ..." Since there are six options and likely many more students in your class, you'll hear a range of answers.

