

Formative Assessment:

What is Formative Assessment?

“Formative assessment is a process used by teachers and students during instruction that provides feedback to adjust ongoing teaching and learning to improve students’ achievement of intended instructional outcomes.” (2008)

http://www.ccsso.org/Documents/2008/Attributes_of_Effective_2008.pdf

The Key Elements of Formative Assessment:

- Formative assessment is a *process*, not any particular test.
- It is used not just by teachers but by *both teachers and students*.
- Formative assessment takes place *during instruction*.
- It provides *assessment-based feedback* to teachers and students.
- The function of this feedback is to help teachers and students make *adjustments* that will improve students’ achievement of intended curricular aims.

Source: W. James Popham, *Transformative Assessment*, (Association for Supervisions and Curriculum Development, 2008)

What does formative assessment look like in the classroom?

This applies to teachers and students, answering the following questions:

Where am I going?

- Discuss with students their learning targets, written in student-friendly language.
- Show students strong and weak examples of the type of performance or product they are expected to create.
- Use Rubrics! For rubric help:

http://www.doe.k12.de.us/commoncore/contentareas/files/Gr6-8_Content_Info_Exp.pdf

Where am I now?

- Administer a non-graded quiz partway through the learning to help understand who needs to work on what.
- Have students identify their own strengths and weaknesses.
- Have students keep a list of the learning goals and check off the ones they have mastered.

How can I close the gap?

- Give students feedback
- Have students graph or describe their progress on learning goals.
- Ask students to comment on their progress: What changes have you noticed? What is easy that used to be hard?

Source: Chappuis and Chappuis, "The Best Value in Formative Assessment", *Educational Leadership*. Dec. 2007/Jan. 2008, Vol. 65 No. 4. 14-18

More Examples of Formative Assessment in the Classroom:

- Use classroom discussion
- Ask students reflective, thought-provoking questions
- Think-pair-share
- Have students write their understanding of a concept before and after instruction
- Ask students to summarize the main ideas they've taken away from a lecture or assigned reading
- Interview students individually or in small groups
- Assign brief, in-class writing assignments
- Use portfolios or collections of student work

Source: Carol Boston, *The Concept of Formative Assessment*, 2002