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| ***1F - Designing Student Assessments***   * Congruence with Instructional Outcomes * Criteria and Standards * Design of Formative Assessments * Use for Planning | Good teaching requires both assessment of learning and assessment for learning. Assessments of learning ensure that teachers know that students have learned the intended outcomes. These assessments must be designed in such a manner that they provide evidence of the full range of learning outcomes; that is, to assess reasoning skills and factual knowledge, different methods are needed. Furthermore, such assessments may need to be adapted to the particular needs of individual students; an ESL student, for example, may need an alternative method of assessment to allow demonstration of understanding. Assessment for learning enables a teacher to incorporate assessments directly into the instructional processes, and to modify or adapt instruction as needed to ensure student understanding. Such assessments, although used during instruction, must be designed as part of the planning process. Such formative assessment strategies are ongoing and may be used by both teachers and students to monitor progress towards the understanding of the learning outcomes.  Domain 1: Planning & Preparation | | | |
| ***Ineffective*** | ***Developing*** | ***Accomplished*** | ***Exemplary*** |
| * Assessment procedures are not congruent with instructional outcomes; the proposed approach contains no criteria or standards. * Teacher has no plan to incorporate formative assessment in the lesson or unit nor any plan to use assessment results in designing future instruction. | * Some of the instructional outcomes are assessed through the proposed approach, but others are not. * Assessment criteria and standards have been developed, but they are not clear. * Approach to the use of formative assessment is rudimentary, including only some of the instructional outcomes. * Teacher intends to use assessment results to plan for future instruction for the class as a whole. | * **Teacher's plan for student assessment is aligned with the instructional outcomes; assessment methodologies may have been adapted for groups of students.** * **Assessment criteria and standards are clear. Teacher has a well-developed strategy for using formative assessment and has designed particular approaches to be used.** * **Teacher intends to use assessment results to plan for future instruction for groups of students.** | * Teacher's plan for student assessment is fully aligned with the instructional outcomes and has clear criteria and standards that show evidence of student contribution to their development. * Assessment methodologies have been adapted for individual students, as needed. * The approach to using formative assessment is well designed and includes student as well as teacher use of the assessment information. Teacher intends to use assessment results to plan future instruction for individual students. |
| ***Critical Attributes*** | * Assessments do not match instructional outcomes. * Assessments have no criteria. * No formative assessments have been designed. * Assessment results do not affect future plans. | * Only some of the instructional outcomes are addressed in the planned assessments. * Assessment criteria are vague. * Plans refer to the use of formative assessments, but they are not fully developed. * Assessment results are used to design lesson plans for the whole class, not individual students. | * All the learning outcomes have a method for assessment. * Assessment types match learning expectations. * Plans indicate modified assessments for some students as needed. * Assessment criteria are clearly written. * Plans include formative assessments to use during instruction. * Lesson plans indicate possible adjustments based on formative assessment data. | In addition to the characteristics of "accomplished":   * Assessments provide opportunities for student choice. * Students participate in designing assessments for their own work. * Teacher-designed assessments are authentic with real-world application, as appropriate. * Students develop rubrics according to teacher-specified learning objectives. * Students are actively involved in collecting information from formative assessments and provide input. |
| ***Possible Examples***  ***Possible Examples (cont.)*** | * The teacher marks papers on the foundation of the U.S. constitution on the basis of grammar and punctuation; for every mistake, the grade drops from an A to a B, a B to a C, etc. * After the students present their research on globalization, the teacher tells them their letter grade. When students ask how he has arrived at the grade, he responds, "After all these years in education, I just know what grade to give." * The teacher says, "What's the difference between formative assessment and the test I give at the end of the unit?" * The teacher says, "The district gave me this entire curriculum to teach, so I just have to keep moving." | * The district goal for the Europe unit is for students to understand geopolitical relationships. The teacher plans to have the students memorize all the country capitals and rivers. * The teacher's students receive their tests back; each one is simply marked with a letter grade at the top. * The plan indicates that the teacher will pause to "check for understanding" but without a clear indication of how that is to be done. * A student says, "If half the class passed the test, why are we all reviewing the material again?" | * Mr. K knows that his students will write a persuasive essay on the state assessment; he plans to have them write a variety of persuasive essays as preparation. * Ms. M has worked on a writing rubric for her research assessment; she has drawn on multiple sources to be sure the levels of expectation are clearly defined. * Mr. C creates a short questionnaire to distribute to his students at the end of class; on the basis of their responses, he will organize them into different groups during the next lesson's activities. * Based on the previous morning's formative assessment, Ms. D plans to have 5 students to work on a more challenging project while she works with 6 other students to reinforce the concept. | * To teach persuasive writing, Ms. H plans to have her class research and write to the principal on an issue that is important to the students; the use of cell phones in class. * Mr. J's students will write a rubric for their final project on the benefits of solar energy; Mr. J has shown them several sample rubrics, and they will refer to those as they create a rubric of their own. * After the lesson Mr. L asks students to rate their understanding on a scale of 1 to 5; the students know that their rating will indicate their activity for the next lesson. * Mrs. T has developed a routine for her class: students know that if they are struggling with a math concept, they will sit in a small group with her during workshop time. |

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| ***3B - Questioning and Discussion Techniques***   * Quality of Questions * Discussion Techniques * Student Participation | Questioning and discussion are the only instructional strategies specifically referred to in the framework for teaching; this fact reflects their central importance to teachers’ practice. But in the framework it is important that questioning and discussion are used as techniques to deepen student understanding are being used rather than serving as recitation or a verbal quiz. Good teachers use divergent as well as convergent questions, framed in such a way that they invite students to formulate hypotheses, make connections, or challenge previously held views. Students’ responses to questions are valued; effective teachers are especially adept at responding to and building upon student responses and making use of their ideas. High- quality questions encourage student to make connections among concepts or events previously believed to be unrelated, and arrive at new understandings of complex material. Effective teachers also pose questions for which they do not know the answers. Even when a question has limited number of correct responses, the question, being non-formulaic, is likely to promote thinking by students. Class discussions are animated, engaging all students in important issues and in using their own language to deepen and extend their understanding. These discussions may be based on questions formulated by the students themselves.  Domain 3: Instruction  Not all questions must be at high cognitive level in order for a teacher’s performance to be rated at a high level; that is, when exploring a topic, a teacher might begin with a series of questions of low cognitive challenge to provide a review, or to ensure that everyone in the class is “on board.” Furthermore, if the questions are at a high level, but only a few students participate in the discussion, the teacher’s performance on the component cannot be judged to be at a high level. In addition, in lessons involving student in small-group work, the quality of the student’s questions and discussion in their small groups may be considered part of this component.  In order for students to formulate high-level questions, they must have learned how to do so. Therefore, high-level questions from students, either in the full class, or in small group discussions, provide evidence that these skills have been taught. | | | |
| ***Ineffective*** | ***Developing*** | ***Accomplished*** | ***Exemplary*** |
| * Teacher’s questions are of low cognitive challenge, require single correct responses, and are asked in rapid succession. * Interaction between teacher and students is predominantly recitation style, with the teacher mediating all questions and answers. * A few students dominate the discussion. | * Teacher’s questions lead students through a single path of inquiry, with answers seemingly determined in advance. * Alternatively, the teacher attempts to frame some questions designed to promote student thinking and understanding, but only a few students are involved. * Teacher attempts to engage all students in the discussion and to encourage them to respond to one another, but with uneven results. | * **Although the teacher may use some low-level questions, he or she asks the students questions designed to promote thinking and understanding.** * **Teacher creates a genuine discussion among students, providing adequate time for students to respond and stepping aside when appropriate.** * **Teacher successfully engages most students in the discussion, employing a range of strategies to ensure that most students are heard.** | * Teacher uses a variety or series of questions or prompts to challenge students cognitively, advance high-level thinking and discourse, and promote metacognition. * Students formulate many questions, initiate topics, and make unsolicited contributions. * Students themselves ensure that all voices are heard in the discussion. |
| ***Critical Attributes*** | * Questions are rapid-fire, and convergent with a single correct answer. * Questions do not invite student thinking. * All discussion is between teacher and students; students are not invited to speak directly to one another. * A few Students dominate the discussion. | * Teacher frames some questions designed to promote student thinking, but only a small number of students are involved. * The teacher invites students to respond directly to one another’s ideas, but few students respond. * Teacher calls on many students, but only a few actually participate in the discussion. | * Teacher uses open-ended questions, inviting students to think and/or offer multiple possible answers. * The teacher makes effective use of wait time. * The teacher effectively builds on student responses to questions. * Discussions enable students to talk to one another without ongoing mediation by the teacher. * The teacher calls on most students, even those who don’t initially volunteer. * Many students actively engage in the discussion. | In addition to the characteristics of “accomplished”:   * Students initiate higher-order questions. * Students extend the discussion, enriching it. * Students invite comments from their classmates during a discussion. |
| ***Possible Examples*** | * All questions are of the “recitation” type such as “What is 3 x 4?” * The teacher asks a questions for which the answer is on the board; students respond by reading it. * The teacher calls only upon students who have their hands up. | * Many questions are of the “recitation” type, such as “How many members of the House of Representatives are there?” * The teacher asks: “Who has an idea about this?” but only the usual three students offer comments. * The teacher asks: “Michael can you comment on Mary’s idea?” but Michael does not respond or makes a comment directly to the teacher. | * The teacher asks: “What might have happened if the colonists had not prevailed in the American war for independence?” * The teacher uses the plural form in asking questions, such as “What are some things you think might contribute to . . .?” * The teacher asks; “Michael, can you comment on Mary’s idea?” and Michael responds directly to Mary. * After posing a question and asking each of the students to write a brief response and then share it with a partner, the teacher invites a few to offer their ideas to the entire class. | * A student asks, “How many ways are there to get this answer?” * A student says to a classmate: “I don’t think I agree with you on this, because . . .” * A student asks of other students: “Does anyone have another idea how we might figure this out?” * A student asks, “What if . . .?” |