

The Role of Formative Assessment in Student-Centered Teaching

STUDENT CENTERED INSTRUCTION

An approach to instruction which makes students the focus, and structures learning experiences in a way that best meets their identified needs. It involves frequent assessment.

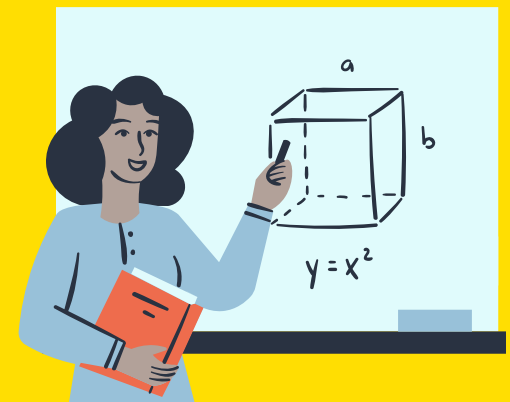


BENEFITS TO LEARNERS

- Learners make more direct connections between what they are learning and their own interests and experiences.
- Increases motivation.
- Increases guidance from feedback.
- Increases metacognition.

BENEFITS TO INSTRUCTORS

- Develops more mature, independent, and reflective learners.
- Creates a more effective learning environment.



FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

Assessing learners during the learning process, as opposed to at the end of it. This helps to determine if learners are on track to complete summative assessments (at the end of the learning process).



BENEFITS TO LEARNERS

- Gives early feedback on progress and allows students to adapt if they aren't getting desired results.
- Allows for practice of skills.
- Low-stakes assessments allow learners develop knowledge with low pressure

BENEFITS TO INSTRUCTORS

- Gives early feedback on student progress.
- Allows instruction to adapt to the needs of current students



TIPS & TAKEAWAYS

- Feedback should be given early and frequently, and should be instructive and specific.
- Assess both content and understanding of it.
- Allow for multiple approaches and solutions.
- Strive to be authentic by relating to real-life situations and experiences.
- Instructors should be direct in explaining the purpose of the assessment, the criteria, and the connection to learning objectives.



EXAMPLES OF FORMATIVE ASSESSMENTS THAT CAN BE STUDENT-CENTERED

Discussions, Collaborative Projects, Think-Pair-Share, Polls, Video Presentations, Video with Embedded Questions, Concept Maps, Quick Reflections