

Formative and Summative Assessment in an Online Environment

Formative

- ongoing
- informal
- feedback
- informs instruction

VS.

Summative

- final
- formal
- assessment of knowledge
- grade or performance scale

Most formative and summative assessment strategies can be transferred to an online environment. Remember to allow time to teach students how to use these tools prior to asking them to use them.

Formative In Class

The types of formative assessments you're probably already doing:

- conversations
- observations
- written work with feedback
- quizzes / check for understanding

Summative in Class

The types of summative assessments you're probably already doing:

- tests
- interviews
- essays
- projects / presentations

Formative Assessment Online

Quizzes

Quizzes give both the teacher and students quick feedback on where they are in their learning. They should be used as low stake check ins. You can use quizzes that are already built into your learning management system or use websites / apps such as *Quizlet, Google Classroom, Epic, Raz Kids, Mathology, Splash Math, Splash Learning, Adobe Captivate (Microsoft Stream) or Kahoot.*



Observations

Observations are used to gather quick feedback on a specific topic. Online platforms such as *Seesaw, Padlet, Microsoft Teams whiteboard and Zoom meeting annotate* allow for an interactive experience where teachers are able to check for understanding. With younger students quick flashes can be used when in an online meeting, ask your students a question, have them write or draw their answer then display it in the screen for the teacher to see.



Academic Focused Reflections

Academic focused reflections include things such as written, peer or self-reflections. When online, you can try things such as group discussions that focus on a specific topic and then have students complete self-reflections derived from the conversation. This can be done through *online conferencing platforms or MyBluePrint*. Peer reflections can be done through online shared documents such as *live Google or Word documents, Flipgrid and GoReact, or within a forum.*



Summative Assessment Online

Tests

Tests provide a formal assessment of students knowledge of concepts. While tests can be a good formative assessment, teachers need to be aware of the following:

- technology glitches can lead to lost work/time-outs (this can be frustrating and stressful for students)
- timed tests may not be the best for all learners as they can create anxiety.
- Students will likely not be monitored at home. Consider open book tests and written questions that allow students to demonstrate their learning.
- Monitoring software is available; However, factors connected to FOIPPA should be considered.
- Consider that there may be other/better ways to authentically assess student understanding.



Projects

Projects are a great way to evaluate students cumulative understanding. Inquiry and passion projects allow students to explore personal areas of interest at deeper level, while meeting curricular expectations. Projects that work well in the online environment include *videos, podcasts, Flipgrid, GoReact and blogs.*



Interviews & Presentations

Interviews and presentations can be a great way to assess student understanding. Interviews are a one-on-one assessment where the teacher asks the student to demonstrate specific skills in math or ask them comprehension questions in reading. Presentations are a demonstration of their learning to a whole class or small group. Both of these assessments are easily done online through *video conferencing platforms, Flipgrid or by submitting an online video.*



Co-Authored by Faune, Jerry, Leanne, and Rochelle, experienced educators in online learning who teach at a distance learning school.

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For more information go to: [Assessment Research, Resources, and Rationale](#)