Activity: Pre-Assessment Probe

- Classroom Assessment Technique (CAT) Domain: Assessing Prior Knowledge, Recall, and Understanding:
- CAT Activity: Background Knowledge Probe
- Question: Introduce yourself and answer: What do you think of when you think about ASSESSMENT? What is its purpose?

Classroom Assessment Techniques: A Handbook for College Teachers (2nd Ed; 1993)- Thomas Angelo and K. Patricia Cross.

Educational Assessment

- Educational Assessment is a formal attempt to determine students' status with respect to educational variables of interest
  - Formal attempt to get a fix on students' knowledge, skills, attitudes
  - More broad definition than "testing"- includes more kinds of measurement procedures

Popham, W.J. (2008). Classroom assessment, 5th ed: What teachers need to know. Allyn and Bacon.

Traditional Reasons for Assessment

- To diagnose students' strengths and weaknesses ahead of time (via pre-assessment)
- To monitor students' progress/ learning
- To evaluate/ assign grades to students
- To determine instructor's effectiveness

Popham, 2008

Further Reasons for Assessment

- Test results determine administration's perceptions of educational effectiveness
- Students' performance used to evaluate instructor effectiveness, curriculum effectiveness
- As clarifiers of instructional intentions, assessment devices can improve instructional quality
- Giving students evidence to self-monitor and self-direct their learning

Popham, 2008

1) Assessment OF Learning

Assessment OF Learning Characteristics

- Used for summative grading
- Compares student's achievement with standards
- Delayed feedback to students
- End of a learning unit

Examples of Assessments OF Learning

- Course exams (tests, midterms, finals)
- Boards, standardized tests
- Tests where students work independently

Black, P.J. & Wiliam, D. (1998) Inside the Black Box: Raising standards through classroom assessment. King's College, London.

2) Assessment FOR Learning

Assessment FOR Learning

- Pre-assessment or formative assessment
- Checks understanding of student progress, teachers adapt instruction
- Descriptive feedback to students on strengths, challenges, next steps
- Ongoing throughout learning unit

Types of Assessments FOR Learning

- Examples: students posting on a discussion board about a question; short papers; completing matrices or filling in worksheets
- Assessments where students learn content and skills by engaging in the assessment
- Assessments where instructor can see what students know/ don't know

3) Assessment AS Learning

Assessment AS Learning

- Students need to be aware of instructional goals and criteria for performance
- Students set goals, monitor their progress, and reflect on results
- Student ownership and responsibility
- May be ongoing throughout learning unit

Assessment AS Learning Assessments

- Performance assessments, portfolios
- Self-assessments of knowledge, skills, attitudes, where students can learn what they know/ don't know
- Assessments that elicit metacognitive thought about knowledge, skills, attitudes

Assessment Techniques using New Courseworks

- Test & Quiz- can be used to post formative quizzes, where you can monitor responses
- Discussion boards- viewable by everyone, asynchronously
- Chat room- viewable by everyone, synchronously
- Blogs- students can blog about topic, which can be viewed by everyone
- Polls- instructor can post a poll
- Wikis- students can add and update content about a topic
- Assignments- instructor can ask students to privately respond to a question and view their responses