

Four Types of Formative Assessment

Temperature Gauges—Immediate, in-the-moment assessments that allow the teacher to get a sense of current student status. This often takes place while the teacher is presenting a lesson.

Based on student response, the teacher can adjust the lesson content and pacing, and identify any urgent student needs.

Examples: Adjective Check-In, Three-Finger Check-In

Breakpoints—Brief assessments given at a stopping point in instruction (such as the end of the class period or lesson), allowing the teacher to step back and revise the instructional plan.

Based on student response, the teacher can plan instructional activities and whole-class lessons.

Examples: Exit Cards, One Sentence Summary, Do Now, Higher-Order Questioning, Quizzes

Student Directed Assessments—Self-evaluative student reflection, giving the teacher insight into perceived needs.

Based on student response, the teacher can direct the student to appropriate resources—small-group or one-on-one instruction, websites, learning activities, and how-to sheets.

Examples: Checklists, Self-Assessment on a Rubric, Peer Evaluation, Student Journals

Comprehensive Assessments—Systematic data collection on individual skill & concept attainment.

Based on student response, the teacher can offer targeted small-group instruction, re-teach core concepts, and provide additional resources.

Examples: Rubrics, Tests, Facilitation Grids, Individual Conferences/Oral Interviews, Student Folders, Notebook/Portfolio Check