

Activity: Formative Assessment Test Item Options

There are many types of formative assessment items, such as multiple-choice, matching, alternative-choice, true/false, multiple-response, fill-in-the-blank, and written-response (Marzano, 2010). Provide assessment examples for the items below:

Multiple-choice items provide a series of answers from which students are to select the correct one. Create a multiple-choice question for multiplying numbers with a calculator and provide four response choices:

Matching items require students to match elements of information that are related. Typically more possible answers are offered than elements to which they are to be matched. Create lists of matching items for teaching supplies; include a few choices that are unrelated:

Activity: Formative Assessment Test Item Options (continued)

Alternative-choice items are like multiple-choice but offer only two possible answers. Create an alternative-choice item for a question about taking photos with a cell phone:

True/false items require students to determine if a statement is accurate or inaccurate. Write three true/false items for a question about earning an advanced degree:

Multiple-response items are like multiple-choice except that more than one of the alternatives can be correct. Write a multiple-response item for a question about teaching reading comprehension strategies (e.g., six responses with two being correct):

Activity: Formative Assessment Test Item Options (continued)

Fill-in-the-blank items require students to provide a response that fits into a specific phrase or sentence. Create a fill-in-the-blank sentence regarding preparation for state assessments:

Written-response items require students to write a correct answer to a question. Prepare a written response question regarding student motivation:

This exercise covered seven types of assessment items. Which do you typically use to assess your students? If not all seven, which do you plan to add to your assessment toolkit?