(Mostly Formative) Assessment

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Panel III Topics

- Formative Assessment
- Summative Assessment
- Grading
- Student Evals
Distinguishing Assessments

+ **Formative**
  *During* learning process

+ **Summative**
  *After* learning process
Benefits of Formative Assessment (which ABA requires)

- Active Learning
- Increased efficiency
- Helps Promote Long Term Learning
What can be used for formative assessment?

“OBJECTIVE” (MC, T/F)  ESSAY-ISH  DISCUSSION BOARD OR COMMENT
Getting Started

+ What are your class goals?
  • How can assessments promote those goals?
    • How many types and how many/often?
  • Can you create a series of assignments to build towards key outcomes?

+ How can you get feedback on whether assessments are working for students (before official class evaluations)?
  • Informal mid-semester feedback
Choosing Formative assessment(s)

+ Consider time needed to create and/or respond
  
  • Verbal response (to group)
  • In-class polling, Small group project, Minute paper” (in next class)
  • Written response that takes time, but can free up class time and also be reused subsequent years
  • Quizzes
  • Sample Answer and/or Rubric
  • Essay, Short Answer, Simulated Client Project
  • Written individual feedback
  • Consider team submissions and/or sample
How to create formative assessment question(s)?

+ Off the Shelf
  • CALI, Quimbee, Casebooks

+ DIY
  • Prior exams, class notes of points of confusion
  • Inspiration from commercial sources, colleagues, etc.
  • Real life examples/news can be discussion prompts
Some Examples

+ Discussion post: Explain the 3 most important things you learned from the reading

+ T/F: Did the court reach the right decision in [CASE]?

+ Word cloud: What did the court hold?

+ MC: Which of the following is an example of [DOCTRINE]?
  A. X
  B. Y
  C. Both A & B
  D. I don’t know.
To Grade or Not to Grade
(Formative Assessments)

+ How to promote learning?
  • Grade for timely (& professional) completion only
  • Check variants
  • Small % of overall grade (5-10%) and/or points (i.e. 1-3, or 1-5)
  • Nestled assignments, so that can use feedback on bigger projects
Want more?

+ AALS Resources for Adjuncts

+ Formative Assessment
  - How to Use Formative Assessment Data to Tailor Teaching (2021)
  - How to choose a Formative Assessment Platform (2021)
  - Teaching Civil Procedure Online with Active Learning, in LAW TEACHING STRATEGIES FOR A NEW ERA: BEYOND THE PHYSICAL CLASSROOM (Dysart & Norton 2021)

+ Thanks!

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