

TECHNOLOGY in Practice



Applications and Innovations

The Role of Assessment in the *Technology in Practice: Applications and Innovations* Program

American education is driven by testing and grading. Tests and grades represent only one aspect of assessment, and in this curriculum we have broadened the role of assessment to include an interactive and ongoing process between the teacher and the student. This process of embedded assessment allows the students and the teacher to have a more authentic measure of what the students know, value, and are able to do. For the teacher, this process helps determine the flow of the lessons.

Broadening the role of assessment like this allows the teacher to modify lessons to meet the needs of the students. This change also encourages students to be responsible for the results of their education rather than accepting grades as an external consequence that is out of their control. Ongoing assessment helps the students understand their progress, monitor their growth, and develop specific skills.

Assessing Students' Learning

The most notable difference in our approach to assessment may be that we recommend both formative (that which informs instruction) and summative (that which assesses an end point) evaluation strategies and do not rely heavily on single assessment instruments to form the basis for most of a letter grade.

You will find that the instructional model, by its very nature, will help you assess your students in an ongoing manner and in a range of ways which will provide you with an authentic measure of their learning. Each stage of the instructional model presents you and your students with an opportunity to assess a different aspect of the students' learning. It is also important for students to reflect on their own learning and assess their own progress. Each activity brings opportunities for you to provide feedback to students and help them gauge their learning. These opportunities may be based on the *Outcomes and Indicators of Success* for the activity, critical *Process and Procedure* steps, *Stop and Think* questions, *Reflect and Connect* questions, and general notebook assessments.