

Questioning and Assessment Techniques

One of the aspects I really enjoy about teaching is that not all students, or teachers, are the same. I love learning new ways of processing information and new approaches from all of my students and co-workers. Just as a GPA does not give much insight into a student, using one version of questioning or assessment does not accurately assess student knowledge. Many varieties should be used.

As a teacher I assess my students every day. Assessments can come from a large variety of options such as a clicker game, task cards, or through an individualized learning plan (ILP). During a problem-based learning (PBL) lesson I use KWL charts, workshops and a design process that is revisited every few days. This keeps me informed of their progress. For a summative assessment they may have their choice of a poster presentation, a video presentation or a brochure presentation. I also utilize technology applications and cooperative learning. I often incorporate Kagan structures and AVID strategies and I am always learning more of these strategies as I teach. Another technique I use is to also incorporate the ELPS such as using more visuals. I know that strategies that help my ELL students help all of my students. It is important that all my strategies for questioning and assessments are learner centered.

These techniques give both the students and the teacher the opportunity to see what they have learned and what they need to work on. If a majority of the students score low on an assessment, I will know to stop and revisit material. I assess everything they turn in as it gives me a better understanding of how they learn and what they are learning.