



Assessment Methods – The Four Options

We experience assessment in a variety of forms, but how they gather evidence of learning can be organized into four categories. Choosing the right method of assessment is a matter of aligning your information needs with the learning targets you are measuring.

1. Selected Response

Selected response assessments require students to choose a correct or best answer to a question from a list of possible answers or contextual information that is provided.

EXAMPLES:

- Multiple choice
- True/False
- Matching
- Fill-in-the-blank

BEST USES:

Identifying knowledge of facts and concepts

2. Written Response

Written response assessments require students to construct an answer to a question, rather than select one from a list of possible results. These assessments can be either short answer and extended written response questions, depending upon the purpose for the question or task.

EXAMPLE OF SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS:

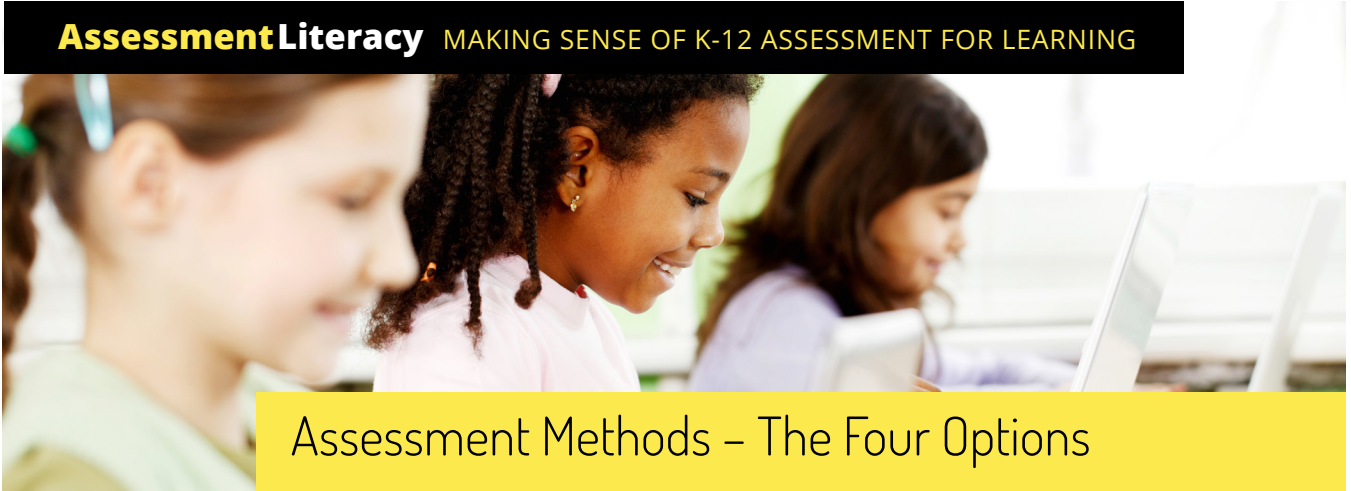
- List two differences between a plant cell and an animal cell.
- What are three reasons that the U.S. entered World War II?

EXTENDED WRITTEN RESPONSE:

- Describe the process of photosynthesis.
- Explain the similarities between the two lead characters in each of the included reading passages.

BEST USES:

Identifying relationships, problem solving and analysis of information



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3. Performance Assessment

Performance assessments rely upon observation and judgment to determine a student's demonstration skills and work products for a given task.

EXAMPLE OF DEMONSTRATION SKILLS:

- Recite a poem
- Conduct a scientific experiment

EXAMPLE OF WORK PRODUCTS:

- A diorama of a scene
- An essay on a place the student traveled

BEST USES:

Demonstrating skills and evaluating the quality of work

4. Personal Communication

Interacting with students is a form of gathering evidence of their learning and is perhaps the most commonly used method of assessment.

EXAMPLES OF PERSONAL COMMUNICATION:

- Asking a question during a lesson
- Interviews and student conferences
- Listening to students in class
- Oral reports and exams

BEST USES:

Identifying knowledge of facts and concepts, as well as surfacing the ability to solve problems and make inferences