

Can summative assessment be used formatively?

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Summative Vs. Formative Assessment

Summative:

Evaluate students' learning at the end of a particular period of study; used to determine what students have learned and thus report on their progress.

Formative:

Monitor students' learning while it occurs, conducted DURING the learning process; allows students and teachers to identify strengths and areas for improvement.

Summative Vs. Formative Assessment

“When the cook tastes the soup, that’s formative assessment; when the customer tastes the soup, that’s summative assessment.”

(Paul Black)



Summative Vs. Formative Assessment: Typical activities

- Proficiency exam
- Portfolios
- Self-assessment
- Quizzes
- Projects
- Oral presentations
- Detailed comments on a piece of written homework
- Final essay (after several drafts)
- Observations
- In-class Q&A
- End of chapter test
- Peer Assessment
- Journals
- Discussions
- State or national exam

Test-dominated contexts

‘Teaching to the test’ is a type of teaching that focuses on preparing students for high-stakes, standardized tests; the common use of tests and test-preparation activities become a feature of everyday classroom practice



Formative Use of Summative Testing (FUST)

In an exam culture, a positive ‘synergy’ between formative and summative assessment is necessary for effective implementation of formative assessment.

(Broadfoot & Black,)

FUST: Strategies

Pre-test preparation:

- Share success criteria/test rubrics
- Share previous learner test responses
- Have students create mock test papers

FUST: Strategies

Test Results:

- Consider peer marking
- Analyze & look for patterns
- Give more than just a grade
- Allow for contemplation

FUST: Strategies

Post-test follow-up:

- Allow time for post-test follow-up!
- Conduct test follow-up sessions
- Feedback on your feedback
- Peer-learning activity: Re-work exam questions

FUST: Challenges

- Feedback is test related
- Grades remain important
- Doesn't appeal to all students
- Summative test is still dominant

Thank you!

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Question and Answer

Now, let's take some questions from the Q and A.



You can also use the chat box to leave your comments and questions!

