common sense education®

Make Formative Assessment More Student-Centered

Does formative assessment begin and end with a quiz? Many popular formative assessment apps make giving and scoring quizzes easy and efficient. They also give teachers great feedback on learning and instruction. But quizzes and feedback are the tip of the iceberg. To unlock formative assessment's full potential, go beyond the bar chart and get students to *reflect* on their own progress, areas for growth, and next steps. In the end, it's not the quiz that counts but the thinking that happens after.

Tips for Student-Centered Formative Assessment

- **Start with a quiz, then do a quick online poll about the quiz right after.**
  - Help students gauge how they think they did.
  - Ask poll questions like: How challenging was it? How confident were you feeling? Did you feel prepared?
  - You can use the responses to differentiate future lessons or match up students for a future support activity.

- **After a quiz, start a discussion focused not only on what happened in the quiz but on what to do next.**
  - As students talk about what was challenging, help them zero in on specific ways to improve.
  - Encourage more confident students to push their understanding even further.
  - For everyone, shift the focus from scores and grades to honest self-assessment.

- **After a quiz, engage students in a reflection activity.**
  - As students reflect on where they are, ask them to think about where they need to go next.
  - Help students articulate their own learning goals and next steps, then use this to help motivate them to go out and find the answers.

Suggested Tools

Kahoot!

Gamelike student-response tool can spark competitive fun.

www.commonsense.org/ education/website/kahoot

Formative

Superb real-time assessment tool fits BYOD, 1-to-1.

www.commonsense.org/ education/website/formative

Quizlet

Flexible study aid supports learning at home, at school, and on the go.

www.commonsense.org/ education/website/quizlet