

Introduction

We live in a time when government, business and industry, and the general public are calling for an accounting of student abilities. Because single-test instruments are more easily available for assessment, they are the assessment of choice. As teachers, we know that a single assessment in a written, forced-choice format is not the best way to determine student success. We know there are better choices for us. While we have little control over the state-mandated test measures, we do have tremendous control over the day-to-day measures that we use in our classrooms.

This book will examine current research on performance (i.e., *authentic*) assessment, appropriate teacher-made tests, and standardized tests. Standards-based instruction will be discussed along with its the implications for the classroom. The effectiveness of seven kinds of student achievement tests will be explored. Information on assessment, monitoring instructional effectiveness, and the implications for the classroom will be included. We will examine standardized tests, teacher-made tests, multiple and authentic assessments, portfolios, and self-assessments. How to prepare a rubric will be discussed, and we will walk through a classroom unit, planning with the end in mind by selecting objectives (formative, summative, procedural, and declarative), preparing a rubric, identifying the assessment tools to be used, and evaluating the effectiveness of the assessment.

Marzano (1998) found that teaching vocabulary to students first has a high impact on achievement. With that in mind, I have provided a list of vocabulary words that will be

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a part of this book. Using Form 0.1, see how many of the words you recognize. Write your definition in the space provided, and then review your answers as you read. By the way, this is an effective way to teach vocabulary to your students.

In addition, I am providing a vocabulary pre-test for you based on the information from this book. After you have read the book, you will be given a post-test and the solutions to the tests. The Vocabulary Summary offers additional information about these and other terms associated with motivation.