

Formative Assessment

Simply Explained

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What is Formative Assessment?

1. Formative is an "assessment which provides feedback to students (and teachers) about the learning which is occurring, during the teaching and learning, and not after." (Bell & Cowie, 2000, p. 6)
2. According to Frey, Fisher, and Gonzalez (2010), formative assessment is like a GPS, it guides instruction by providing real-time feedback to adjust teaching and learning as you go. They contrast this with summative assessment, which they see as the final destination, offering a summary of what has been learned.



Benefits of Formative Assessment

1. Improves student achievement
2. Identifies learning gaps early
3. Supports struggling learners
4. Increases student motivation
5. Builds a growth mindset
6. Guides real-time teaching decisions
7. Encourages student self-reflection
8. Strengthens teacher-student communication
9. Promotes equity in the classroom
10. Develops lifelong learning habits



Formative Assessment Types

Informal Classroom Interactions

Quick checks like questions or thumbs-up/down during lessons to adjust teaching in real time.

Planned Checks

Exit tickets, warm-ups, or short quizzes used to gauge understanding without grading.

Feedback on Assignments

Written tasks used formatively when teachers give comments focused on improvement.

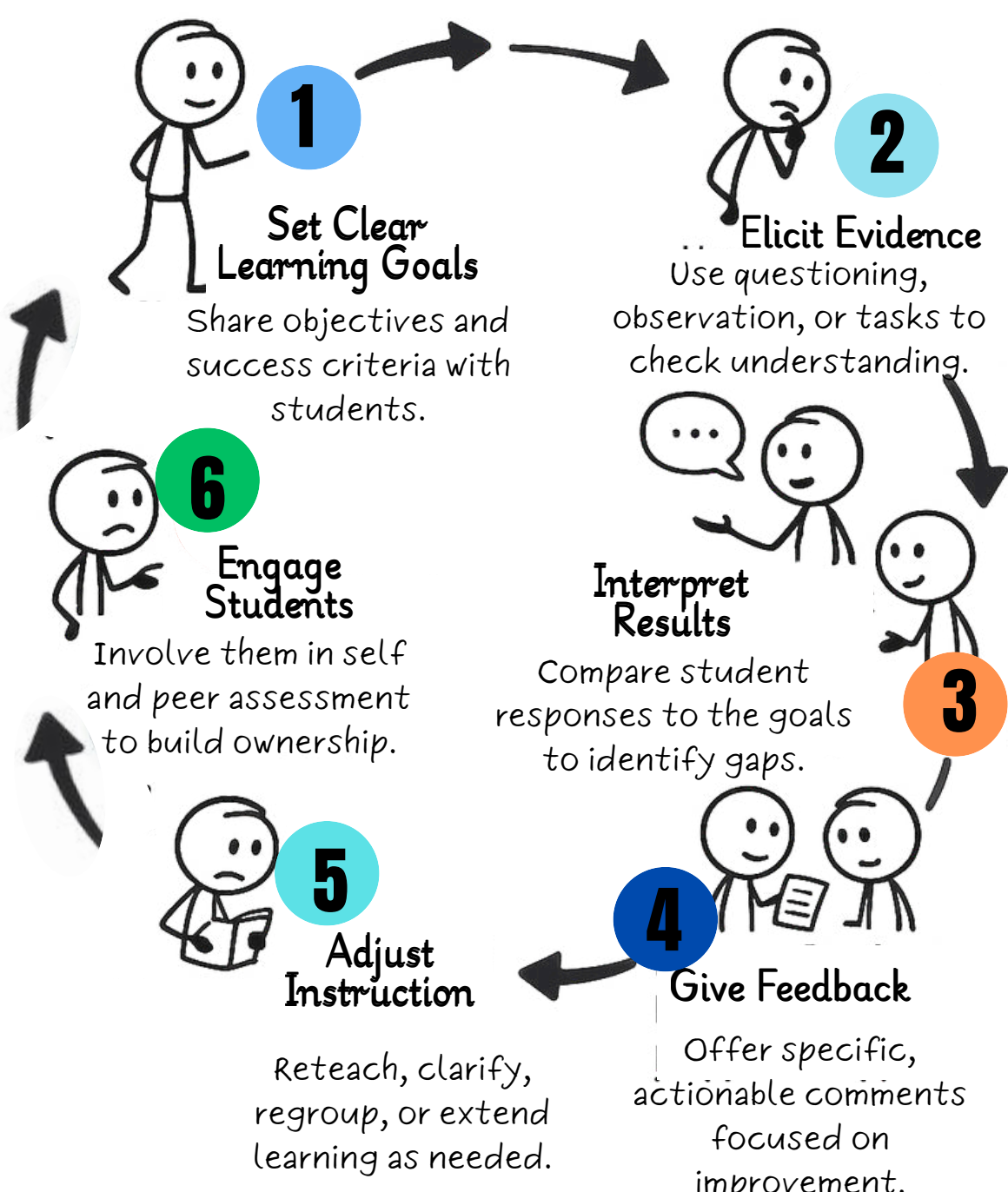
Peer Assessment

Students review each other's work using criteria, encouraging reflection and collaboration.

Self-Assessment

Students use rubrics or checklists to evaluate their learning and set goals.

The Formative Assessment Cycle



Formative Assessment Tools



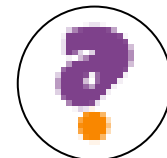
Kahoot



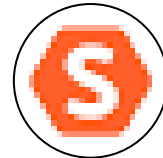
Google Forms



Quizizz



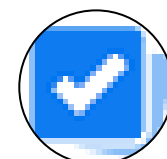
Quizalize



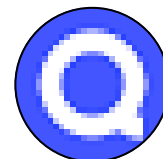
Socrative



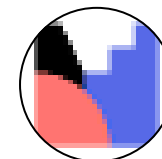
Edupuzzle



Plicker



Quizlet



Mentimeter

Characteristics of Formative Assessment

1. **Ongoing and Continuous:** Happens during instruction, not at the end.
2. **Embedded in Teaching:** Integrated into daily classroom activities, not separate from instruction.
3. **Feedback-Driven:** Provides specific, actionable feedback that helps improve learning.
4. **Student-Centered:** Involves students in understanding goals, assessing their own learning, and using feedback to improve.
5. **Adaptable:** Information gathered is used immediately to adjust teaching strategies.
6. **Low Stakes:** Not used for grades; focus is on growth and improvement.
7. **Goal-Oriented:** Based on clearly defined learning objectives shared with students.
8. **Collaborative:** Encourages peer and self-assessment to promote reflection and metacognition.
9. **Flexible in Format:** Can include questioning, discussions, observations, exit tickets, quizzes, rubrics, and more.
10. **Equity-Focused:** Helps close learning gaps by addressing misunderstandings early.

References

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Characteristics of Formative Assessment

Medkharbach, PhD

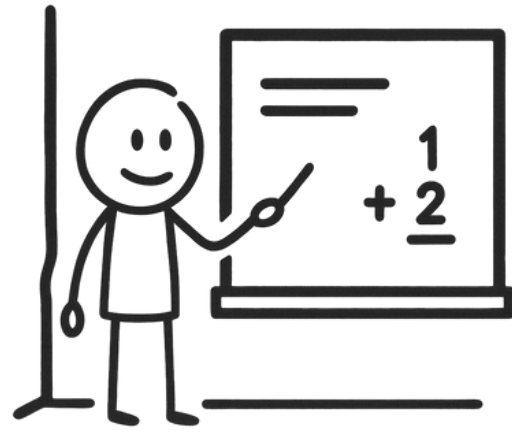
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Ongoing & Continuous



Happens during instruction, not at the end

Embedded in Teaching



Integrated into daily classroom activities, not separate from instruction.

Feedback-Driven



Provides specific, actionable feedback that helps improve learning.

Student-Centered



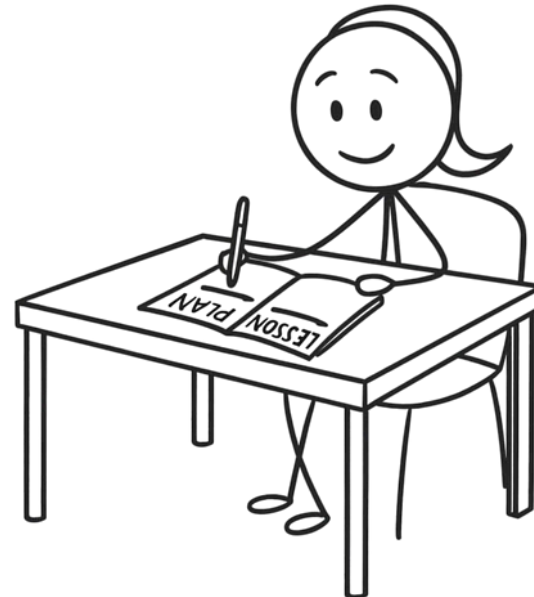
Involves students in understanding goals, assessing their own learning, and using feedback to improve.

Low Stakes



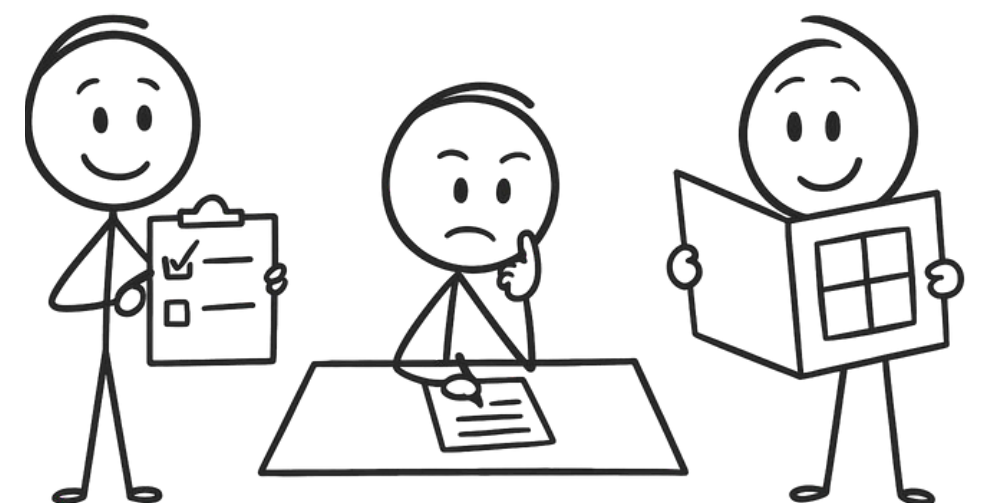
Not used for grades; focus is on growth and improvement.

Adaptable



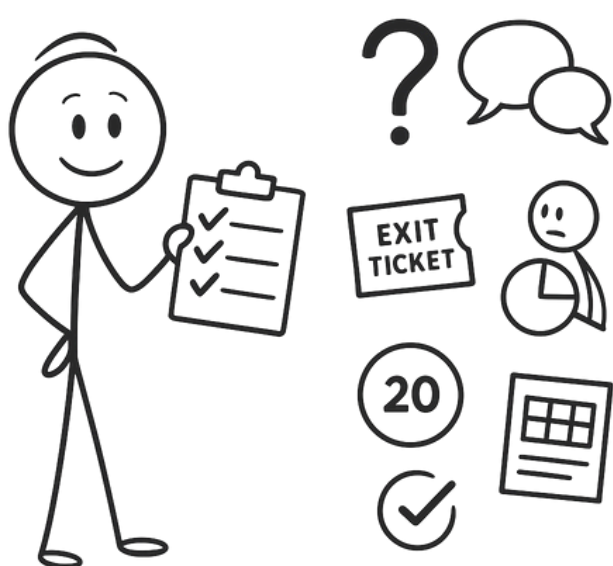
Information gathered is used immediately to adjust teaching strategies.

Collaborative



Encourages peer and self-assessment to promote reflection and metacognition.

Flexible in Format



Can include questioning, discussions, observations, exit tickets, quizzes, rubrics, and more.

Equity-Focused



Helps close learning gaps by addressing misunderstandings early.

Goal-Oriented



Based on clearly defined learning objectives shared with students.

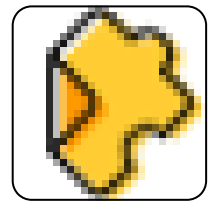
Top Formative Assessment Tools for Teachers

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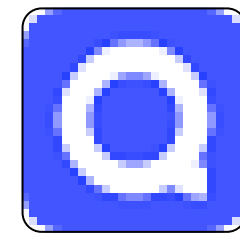
Google Forms

Create flexible quizzes, surveys, or exit tickets with instant feedback and auto-grading.



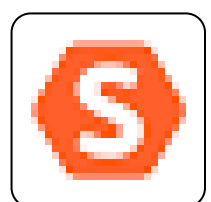
Edupuzzle

Turn videos into interactive lessons by embedding questions to check understanding and promote reflection.



Plickers

Use printed cards and a mobile device to assess students in real time, no student tech needed.



Socrative

Run real-time quizzes and polls; use the "Space Race" mode for competitive learning.



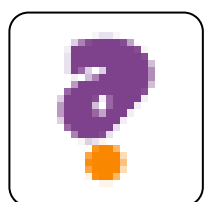
Kahoot

Conduct fun, fast-paced live quizzes to review content and boost engagement.



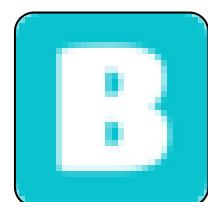
Quizizz

Assign self-paced quizzes with immediate feedback and detailed class reports.



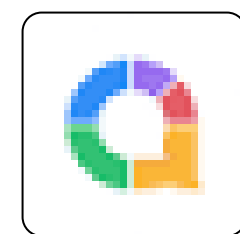
Quizalize

Deliver quizzes that automatically group students for follow-up tasks based on performance.



Blooket

Gamify assessment with interactive quiz-based games that keep students engaged.



Ahaslides

Add live polls, quizzes, and Q&A to your presentations for instant formative feedback.