

ASSESSMENT IN ONLINE LEARNING

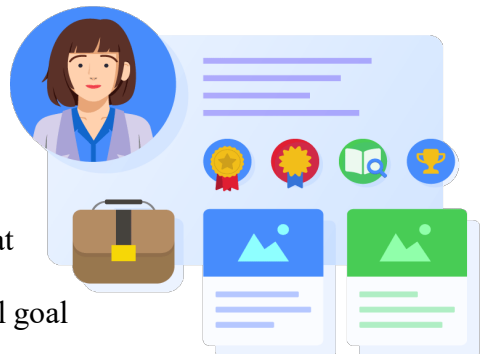


Assessing student learning is a critical component of effective teaching and learning in the online context. If planned properly, online assessments can promote active learning and foster a feeling of community among students and instructors.



In the online learning environment, it is critical to design authentic assessment activities. It is vital, as usual, that your courses begin with a set of clearly stated learning outcomes (See this article for help with [writing learning outcomes](#)).

Assessment -both formative and summative- aims at acquiring information on what students know based on their educational experiences. The results are usually used to highlight areas that need to be improved and to ensure that the course content fits the needs of the students. The general goal of assessment is to evaluate and improve student learning, however the objectives can differ slightly depending on the type of assessment utilized.





The following are examples of assessments that have been shown to be effective in the online learning environment:

1. **Written Assignments:**

- Short essays, research papers, case study responses
- Students submit written work electronically.
- Instructor can assign students to small groups to provide peer feedback and build community.
- To see how to add an assignment on LMS, you can refer to our [LMS Video Guide](#).

2. **Online Discussion:**

- Asynchronous discussion activities (i.e. discussion boards, blogs or wikis).
- Instructor can initiate class discussions with a set of questions on course content.
- It creates an opportunity for community building through student moderation.
- To see how to add a discussion forum on LMS, you can refer to our [LMS Video Guide](#).

3. **Concept Maps:**

- They provide visual representation of connections between concepts students have learned. Labeled links show relationships between concepts.
- It is a good tool for formative assessment to evaluate students' knowledge at certain checkpoints in the course.
- To see how to use a concept map tool called *Bubble.us*, you can refer to our [Educational Tools Video Guide](#).



4. Presentations:

- Students create presentations (i.e. slide deck or poster) to present to instructor and classmates online and receive instructor and peer feedback.
- Synchronous web-conferencing tools can be used to facilitate these presentations or they can be recorded and presented asynchronously.
- To see how to use a presentation tool called *Canva*, you can refer to our [Educational Tools Video Guide](#).

5. Test/quiz/exam:

- These are generally low stakes, formative assessments to test student understanding of course material.
- To see how to add a quiz on LMS, you can refer to our [LMS Video Guide](#).

6. Interactive Multimedia Activities:

- It is a form of communication that combines different content forms such as text, audio, images, animations, or video into a single interactive presentation.
- To see how to add interactive content (i.e. sort the paragraphs, flashcards, interactive video, drag and drop, and etc.) on LMS, you can refer to our [LMS Video Guide](#).



7. Peer Evaluation and Review:

- Peer evaluation turns the tables to put learners into the instructor's seat and allow students to review and edit each other's work.
- Such activities give each participant a chance to reflect on their knowledge and then communicate their feedback in a consistent and structured way.
- To see how to use a visual collaboration platform called *Miro*, you can refer to our [Educational Tools Video Guide](#).

8. Game-Type Activities:

- Game-type activities turn a series of test questions into a game.
- Game-based assessments are considered fun, and not “tests”, so they are generally a good indicator of true skills and knowledge.
- To see how to use a game-based learning platform called *Kahoot*, you can refer to our [Educational Tools Video Guide](#).



References

Shepard, L. A. (2000). The role of assessment in a learning culture. *Educational Researcher*, 29(7), 4–14.

9 Ways to Assess Student Learning Online

<https://www.ispringsolutions.com/blog/8-ways-to-assess-online-student-learning>

How do I assess student learning online?

<https://www.teachology.ca/knowledgebase/how-do-i-assess-student-learning-online/>

Further Reading and Resources

- [Basics of Online Assessment](#)
- [Online Learning Assessment](#)
- [Online Assessment](#)
- [Gaytan, J., & McEwen, B. C. \(2007\). Effective online instructional and assessment strategies. *The American Journal of Distance Education*, 21\(3\), 117-132. doi:10.1080/08923640701341653](#)