

The Art Institute of California – San Francisco

Faculty Development Department

Pre/Mid/Post Quarter Assessment

“Knowing is half the battle,” especially when it comes to teaching multi-level classes. Assessing your students’ prior knowledge of a subject during Week 1 helps an instructor plan instructional activities that will better reach all students in the class and help identify those students who would best benefit from The Learning Services Center. After this initial assessment is complete, repeat it again at mid-term and give it a final administration the last week of class – but now think of it as not only an assessment tool, but a feedback instrument that will help you as an instructor find out just what is working this quarter and what is not.

Remember: Assessment tools achieve the best results when its purpose is thoroughly explained and understood by all parties involved.

Take time before administering your assessments to tell the students:

- 1) why you are administering the assessment (determine a baseline)
- 2) how the results will be used (for the class as a whole and each individual student)

I. Identify the objectives of the class:

- *Example of FS102 Fundamentals of Design Identified competencies:*

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- o *Gain a basic understanding of design principles*
 - Gain an appreciation of visual form
 - Develop a basic awareness of good design
 - Recognize the elements and principles of design and how they manifest themselves in the design process
 - Develop working knowledge of formal + relational design elements including point, line, plane, volume, texture, balance, symmetry, positive + negative space, scale, proportion and contrast
- o *Use reference and research materials*
- o *Define the different stages of the design process from roughs through completion*

II. After determining your learning objectives, identify three to four (3-4) measurable and observable items related to the learning objectives that will be covered in the class.

III. Pre-Assessment

- a. **CONTENT QUESTIONS:** Develop questions related to the items related to the key objectives of the class to determine the level of pre-knowledge your students possess as they begin instruction. Be sure to take each objective and identify first what you believe would be evidence of the completion or acquisition of the objective.
- b. **LEARNING STYLE QUESTIONS:** Also, develop questions that allow the student to give you feedback on successful learning strategies that have worked in the past.
 - i. *Example Learning Style Questions:*
 1. What have teachers done in the past quarters that have helped you learn?
 2. List different skills or concepts that you have learned that you find most useful?
 3. How do you prepare for class?
 4. How do you prepare for tests?

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5. Do you prefer to work in groups or have individual projects?
- c. Administer these questions to the students Week 1.
- d. Examine the results: You now have a “baseline” of the knowledge bank each student brings to the class. Also, you’ve determined the existing knowledge base of the class that will help you determine how to provide instruction to your class (as a whole and on an individual basis). Are all of the students in your class at about the same level of knowledge, or do you have several students at different levels?

IV. Mid-quarter Assessment

- a. Administer the same set of questions as you did in the pre-test.
- b. Examine the results to see if progress has taken place on the attainment of the objectives of the class. Now be a great time to recommend tutoring services to a student who is not grasping all of the concepts as quickly, or it’s now time to talk to students about the success they have achieved in meeting the goals of the class.

V. Post Assessment

- a. Administer the same set of questions as you did in the pre/mid-quarter test.
- b. Examine the results to see if learning gains took place. Compare these results to the “baseline” results determined with the pre-test. You can now see just how much learning has taken place.

Questions?

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