

# Formative vs. Summative Comparison

KEY CONSIDERATIONS	Formative Assessment	Summative Assessment
TIMEFRAME	Ongoing throughout instruction	At the end of a course or academic year
PURPOSE	Provide opportunities for student improvement in real time	Evaluate learning outcomes after lessons have concluded
INTENTION	Understanding progress; pinpointing areas for improvement	Gauge overall comprehension and label achievements
FREQUENCY	Regular, frequent pace	Occasional
EXAMPLES	Exit tickets, Think-Pair-Share, one-minute paper	Final exams, standardized tests, end-of-unit projects

## What is the value of formative assessment?

### For students:

- Helps develop self-assessment and learning management skills
- Reduces feelings of isolation, especially in large classes
- Increases the ability to think critically about the course content
- Fosters an attitude that values understanding and long-term retention
- Shows your interest and support for their success in your classroom

### For Faculty:

- Provides feedback that can be applied immediately
- Offers useful information about what students have learned without the amount of time required for preparing tests, reading papers, etc.
- Allows you to address student misconceptions or lack of understanding in a timely way
- Helps foster good working relationships with students

## Types of formative assessment

### **Exit tickets**

Be able to quickly gauge student understanding and identify any misconceptions or areas for further clarification

### **1 minute Papers**

encourages students to reflect on their understanding and articulate key concepts and takeaways from the lessons

### **Peer feedback & assessment**

helps students develop critical evaluation skills but also allows them to engage actively in their own learning

### **Quizzes & Tests**

results can be used to adapt instruction, provide additional support, and address any misconceptions or gaps in knowledge

### **Concept Mapping**

gain insight into individual students' understanding and identify any gaps or misconceptions

### **Journals & Reflections**

gain insight into students' understanding, thought processes, and areas of interest

### **Observations & Checklists**

can gather insight on individual and group performance and provide feedback and support

### **Portfolios**

provide a holistic view of student learning and can be used to encourage self-reflection and goal setting

## What to consider when grading **formative assessments**?

- Focus on feedback
- Use rubrics
- Provide descriptive feedback
- Encourage self assessment
- Focus on growth
- Track progress
- Use peer assessment
- Consider participation and effort
- Communicate clearly

## What to consider when grading **summative assessments**?

- Establish clear criteria
- Use rubrics
- Assign numerical or letter grades
- Consider weighting grades
- Provide feedback
- Ensure fairness and consistency
- Communicate results clearly
- Offer opportunities for review and reflection
- Use assessment data