

# Formative vs. Summative Assessment

**Formative:** Done early and often to provide practice

**Summative:** Done at the end, generally cumulative

## Ask Yourself

- Why am I giving this assessment?
- Should it be formative or summative?
- Which course outcome does it meet?
- What format is best for the content?
- Do I have a rubric for the assessment?
- How will I provide effective feedback?

## Formative vs Summative Assessment

### Formative Assessment

- The frequent, low stakes, interactive checking of learner progress and understanding in order to identify learning needs and adjust teaching appropriately.
- Provides immediate feedback to the student.
- Engages the learner in the process
- Allows the instructor to address misconceptions as they arise.
- Instructors know right away how students are doing.

Teach -> Assess -> Teach -> Assess, and so on...

Examples:

Poll/Survey  
Minute Paper  
Quiz  
Small group discussion/brainstorming

### Summative Assessment

Summative assessments evaluate student learning according to learning outcomes or other benchmarks. They give students the opportunity to demonstrate key knowledge, application, connections, and deeper learning.

Teach -> Test

Examples:

Exams  
Papers  
Presentations  
Projects