

Alternate Assessment Ideas

The core of assessment is determining whether a student understands a concept or can perform a particular skill. The assessment ideas below emphasize synthesis and application of content or skills. **A note about setting up these type of assessments:** be clear for yourself on what you are trying to assess when you design the assignment and determine how you will grade or respond to the assessment before you write it. It will make writing it easier. If possible, try it out yourself first so you can provide an example of what you are looking for—and give yourself a sense of what students need to do to create the assignment.

1. **Student Designed Questions:** Have the students write questions and then explain what the question is testing. Bonus: give students a partner who has to answer the question and then have the question designer give feedback on the partner's answers) Note: you may have to provide feedback on how to design a good test question and some examples.
2. **Multiple Choice Explanation:** Give the students a multiple choice test with every choice being right and ask them to explain why they chose the one they chose.
3. **Multiple Choice Alternative answers:** Give the students a question and ask students to write multiple choice answers to the question with at least one being correct, one being plausible, and one being totally wrong. Students also have to identify each of the answers for correct, plausible and wrong. (Writing a plausible answer and a plausible wrong answer requires understanding the correct answer.)
4. **Infographic:** Have students create an infographic to explain a concept or how to solve a problem. Note: Be clear on what type of information you want to see in the infographic.
5. **Visual Collage:** Have students create a visual collage that demonstrates their understanding of a concept- this can be a prompt or template like: This picture is like XX concept because YYY type of assignment. The students provide an explanation for each picture in the collage. The pictures can be drawn or taken with a phone.
6. **Synectics:** Give the students an everyday object (each student can have a different one) and have them explain how this object is like a particular concept. This requires students to think through the characteristics of the concept and the object, synthesize and then make creative connections. You can create a graphic organizer or a template for responding. Example: A car is like a cell because ...
7. **Scenario/Case Study:** Give the students a scenario appropriate to content and then ask them to apply course content in some way.
8. **Timeline activities:** Have students create a timeline that shows the development of a theory, idea, or type of solution to a problem or some other concept
9. **Matching Activity:** Have the students match scenarios or situations with course content.
10. **Open Book tests:** Write questions that ask students to connect content in their texts or course content.
11. **Record an Explanation:** Have students video or audio record their process for how to solve a problem that can be solved in multiple ways.

For more information or help on any of these suggestions, please contact

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