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Assignment: Assessing Student Learning

Assessing a student's learning is vital for a successful classroom. It gives you information about what the students have learned and where there are still weak links that need to be strengthened. It provides the opportunity to create more effective lesson plans for the future and points out what is working and what is not. (Kauchak & Eggen, 2008, p. 383)

My preferred way of assessing my student's learning is to do a summarizing exercise at the end of discussions, especially in core curriculum courses like social studies, history, geography and the like. Asking questions of my students and get them interacting with one another and me about what we have been discussing is a highly enlightening process that gives me the opportunity to see who is participating and who is not. We will also do large projects with many steps – like research projects – that span the course of several weeks and have “check points” for me to see how they are doing.

For the courses like Math and Language Arts, these are primarily driven through writing skills – or working on the internet – which will give me an idea of where the students are in their learning process as we go through the school year. Worksheets, web-based math programs and occasional review quizzes for math are excellent resources for gauging their progress. In Language Arts there will be worksheets and writing assignments to track their development.

As frequently as possible, I will *avoid* using tests that *feel* like tests. Rather, I'll look for ways to continually assess their improvement and to see where they're faltering. I choose to go the more interactive, less-pressured routes so that my students will *enjoy* learning instead of

sweating out when the next test will be. I truly believe that students who enjoy school are more invested in succeeding and end up being more successful in peer-pressure situations as they go into their teenage years.

Bibliographies:

Kauchak, D., & Eggen, P. (2008). *Introduction to Teaching - Becoming a Professional*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Merrill Prentice Hall.