

# Guiding Instruction Using Formative Assessment



## Assessment FOR Learning Strategies



**TLC Educational Solutions** Strategy-based Professional Development workshops are specifically designed to provide the skills needed to teach and interact with today's students. Educators are challenged to keep current with effective ways to meet the student's needs in the areas of instruction and assessment. They must strive to bring District, State and/or Common Core Standards into classroom practice. Whether at an On-Site Workshop or Invitational Seminar, we draw administrators and teachers together to mesh quality instructional strategies with assessment for learning practices and develop skills to engage and motivate students.

## Workshop Sessions

***Engaging Students in Effective Feedback*** - Perceiving ongoing feedback as a two-way street between teacher and student, is essential. Successfully implemented feedback informs teachers in making real-time adjustments in learning opportunities for their students. Likewise, it informs students, allowing them to be actively involved in their own learning. Feedback strategies that can be used every day enhance this element of Formative Assessment.

***Providing Clearly Understood Learning Targets*** - Learning Targets, Objectives, or Goals especially in the form of "I Can Statements" give direction for students to clearly understand what they are learning and to gain ownership in their learning. The power of students understanding what they are intended to be doing/learning and the expectations (criteria for success), is significant. Students reflecting upon their learning and tracking their progress using success criteria develops responsibility for learning and skill as life-long learners.

***Developing Skill in Self-Assessment*** – Self-assessment has a profound impact upon student engagement, motivation, and self-esteem. Self-assessment strategies assist teachers in opening the door to opportunities for students to recognize what they need to focus upon, overcome the challenges of complex tasks, and bring meaning to learning opportunities or experiences. These strategies shift the responsibility from the teacher alone to a shared student and teacher responsibility.

***Expanding Opportunities for Peer Assessment and Collaboration*** – Recognizing the power of student review of the products their peers produce, while communicating with and learning from each other, provides a basis for engaging in strategies that create an atmosphere of collaboration. These strategies optimize the fact that teaching is one of the most powerful means for gaining deep understanding of a topic or concept.

***Incorporating Higher Order Thinking and Quality Assessment in Instruction***- Raising the cognitive rigor of instruction and assessment practices with a focus on higher order thinking enables students to process information at a higher level. This allows students to be prepared to meet the challenges of 21st Century post-secondary education and the workplace. Engaging in strategies that honor individual and collaborative learning styles, provides opportunities for all students to learn while expanding in the ways by which they learn.

## *Engaging Students in Effective Feedback*



- Increasing Cognitive Demand and Providing Feedback
- Providing dollops of feedback
- Optimizing randomness strategies
- Routine feedback strategies
- Passive learning vs active learning

## *Providing Clearly Understood Learning Targets*

- A shift from teaching to learning
- Standards and learning targets
- Assessing student learning targets
- Developing “I Can” statements
- Tracking student progress

## *Developing Skill in Self-Assessment*

- Transforming assessments into formative learning experiences
- Instructional strategies for student self-assessment
- Instructional strategies for teacher direction
- Tracking achievement and effort
- Self-evaluation using rubrics

## *Expanding Opportunities for Peer Assessment and Collaboration*

- Peer assessment
- Instructional strategies for peer assessment
- Instructional strategies for group work
- Debate Team Carousel & Best Composite Answer strategies
- Gallery Walk & Jigsaw strategies



## *Incorporating Higher Order Thinking and Quality Assessment in Instruction*

- Instruction, assessment, and cognitive demand
- Blooms Taxonomy and Webb’s Depth of Knowledge
- Tools for supporting increased rigor
- High quality assessment and instruction
- Reflective and Rigorous Formative Assessment strategies