Formative Assessment and the Common Core Standards: English Language Arts

The *Formative Assessment and the Common Core Standards: English Language Arts/Literacy course* is designed to inform participants about assessment practices to maximize student success within the context of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS).

After establishing a useful definition of formative assessment, we'll explore how it can be most effectively used and how to take the necessary steps to create formative assessments that inform teacher and student alike. Common Core standards have been designed to reflect increased rigor and focus, signaling the importance of educational practices, such as formative assessment, that can promote students' progress toward higher levels of achievement.

Through in-depth readings, video examples, and practical applications you can use immediately in your lesson planning and classroom instruction, you'll explore a range of formative assessments and see how to implement them in your own practice.

Course Objectives

After completing this course, you should be able to

Module 1

- Understand how formative assessment differs from summative assessment in supporting student academic growth.
- Identify and evaluate various types of assessment (e.g., formative, interim, summative) that you use in your practice.
- Reflect on your own practice and explore the notion of assessing more and teaching less.

Module 2

- Articulate the key instructional shifts called for by the Common Core standards for English language arts/literacy.

- Draw conclusions about the effect of the Common Core shifts on your own formative assessment practice.

Module 3

- Examine the influence of effective feedback via formative assessment on student achievement.
- Evaluate the role of feedback in relation to instructional goal-setting and motivation for students with different needs.

Module 4

- Understand the role of Common Core standards in developing appropriate formative assessments.
- Design a lesson by analyzing Common Core standards to determine appropriate learning targets, assessments, and instruction.

Module 5

- Understand how to use formative assessment strategies to help students meet Common Core English language arts/literacy standards.
- Understand the concepts of reliability and validity in assessment practice.
- Design a formative assessment system to measure Common Core–based learning goals.

Course Syllabus

Module 1	**What Is the Value of Formative Assessment?**
	Module Welcome
	• Reading: Formative Assessment: Assessment for Learning
	• Reading: EL—Learning to Love Assessment
	• Video: What Is Formative Assessment?
	Check for Understanding
	• Application: Assessment Inventory
	Module Journal
Module 2	**How Common Core Shifts for English Language Arts/Literacy Will Affect Assessment**
	Module Welcome
	• Reading: Common Core English Language Arts/Literacy Standards Will Prompt Instructional Shifts
	• Reading: EL—Building on the Common Core
	• Video: Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts/Literacy: Shifts and Instructional Implications
	• Handout: Key Instructional Shifts of the Common Core State Standards: English Language Arts/Literacy
	Check for Understanding
	• Application: Preparing for Instructional Shifts of the Common Core State Standards
	Module Journal

Module 3	**Formative Assessment, Effective Feedback, and Student Motivation** Module Welcome • Reading: The Power of Feedback • Reading: EL—Seven Keys to Effective Feedback • Video 1: Key Characteristic: Results in Rapid Feedback • Reading: Gradual Release of Responsibility Instructional Framework • Video 2: Key Characteristic: Teaches Students to Monitor Their Own Progress Check for Understanding • Application: Tailoring Feedback to Student Needs Module Journal
Module 4	**Unpacking the Standards to Align Formative Assessments** Module Welcome • Reading: Planning Backward Helps Align Assessments • Reading: EL—The Lowdown on Learning Progressions • Video: Four Ways to Unpack Common Core Standards Check for Understanding • Handout: Unpack the Standard to Align Learning Targets, Assessments, and Activities Module Journal

Module 5	**Formative Assessment in Context: End-of-Year Assessments, Validity, and Reliability** Module Welcome • Reading: Informing Formative Assessment • Reading: EL—Making Time for Feedback • Video 1: The Assessment-Instruction Link: Elementary School • Reading: Creating Your Own Formative Assessment Tools • Video 2: The Assessment-Instruction Link: High School Check for Understanding • Application 1: Checking Formative Assessments for Validity and Reliability • Application 2: Using End-of-Year Tests to Inform Formative Assessment Module Journal

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