Formative Assessment Generator – Extended Knowledge Base

Table of Contents

- 1. Definition of Formative Assessment
- 2. Core Principles
- 3. Types of Formative Assessment
- 4. Master List of Formative Assessment Strategies (~150)
- 5. When to Use Formative Assessments
- 6. Teacher Quick Reference Guide

1. Definition of Formative Assessment

Formative assessment is a process teachers use to gather evidence of student learning during instruction in order to adjust teaching and support student progress. These assessments are not graded and are not used to evaluate teacher performance. Instead, they provide feedback to both the teacher and the learner about what is understood, what misconceptions exist, and what next steps should occur. Formative assessment differs from summative assessment. Summative assessments measure learning after instruction, while formative assessments inform instruction during the learning process. Effective formative assessments are quick, frequent, embedded within instruction, focused on student thinking, and used to guide instructional decisions.

2. Core Principles

- Reveal student thinking rather than just correct answers
- Occur during learning rather than after learning
- Provide immediate feedback to teachers and students
- Encourage reflection and metacognition
- Guide instructional adjustments
- Remain low stakes and typically ungraded
- Use a variety of formats including verbal, written, visual, and collaborative

3. Types of Formative Assessment

- Quick checks for understanding
- Written reflections
- Visual demonstrations of learning
- Discussion-based strategies
- Collaborative learning strategies
- Metacognitive reflections
- Creative demonstrations of understanding
- Teacher observation strategies
- Technology-supported responses

4. Master List of Formative Assessment Strategies

- Exit Tickets
- Entrance Tickets
- 3-2-1 Reflection
- ABC Brainstorm
- Analogies
- Chalkboard Splash
- Cloze Procedure
- Concept Mapping
- Graphic Organizers
- Venn Diagrams
- Draw It
- Doodle Explanations
- Student Illustrations
- Photo Captions
- Diagram Labeling
- Think-Pair-Share
- Turn and Talk
- Peer Teaching
- Partner Quizzes
- Inside-Outside Circle
- Small Group Discussion
- Jigsaw Strategy
- Socratic Dialogue
- Teach a Friend
- Whip Around
- Quick Writes
- One Minute Essay
- One Sentence Summary
- Learning Logs
- Reflection Journals
- Muddiest Point
- Sentence Prompts
- List Ten Things Learned
- Three Things Learned

- Metacognitive Reflection
- Confidence Rating
- Self Assessment
- Goal Setting
- Self Marking Quizzes
- Learning Journals
- Traffic Lights
- Thumbs Up/Down
- Fist of Five
- Response Cards
- Hand Signals
- Red/Green Cards
- Show of Hands
- Quick Nod
- Finger Rating
- Hand Thermometer
- Concept Sort
- Card Sort
- Matching Vocabulary
- Examples/Non-Examples
- Problem Solving Explanation
- Student Generated Questions
- Peer Assessment
- Placemat Strategy
- Paper Pass Brainstorm
- Graffiti Wall
- Station Demonstrations
- Group Brainstorming
- Collaborative Posters
- Extension Projects
- Creative Models
- Prediction Activities
- Explain Reasoning
- Class Polling
- Digital Polls

- Google Forms Checks
- Socrative Questions
- Backchannel Discussion
- Online Surveys
- Collaborative Docs Feedback
- Clicker Questions
- Whiteboard Responses
- Mini Whiteboards
- Choral Response
- Running Records
- Teacher Observation
- Listening to Student Thinking
- Body Language Monitoring
- Raised Hand Monitoring
- Observation Checklists
- Student Conferences
- One-on-One Interviews
- Discussion Prompts
- Class Debates
- Evidence Explanation
- Transfer Tasks
- Application Scenarios
- Real World Connections
- Teach Younger Students
- Crowd Source Presentations
- Create a Video Explanation
- Twitter Summaries
- Digital Corkboards
- Padlet Responses
- ActivePrompt Placement
- Technology Voting
- Three Minute Pause
- Four Corners
- Turn and Predict
- Process Explanation

- Concept Transfer Checks
- Learning Stations Reflection
- Notebook Explanations
- Index Card Responses
- Postcard Writing
- Historical Role Responses
- Caption This Image
- Storyboard Learning
- Concept Comparison
- Graphic Sequencing
- Mind Maps
- Sentence Completion
- Fill in Concept Maps
- Summarize with Keywords
- Peer Question Exchange
- Interactive Notes Review
- Gallery Walk Feedback
- Collaborative Concept Mapping
- Exit Interviews
- Daily Reflection Prompt
- Lesson Summary Statement

5. When Teachers Should Use Formative Assessments

Formative assessments can occur before instruction to activate prior knowledge, during instruction to monitor understanding, and after segments of learning to reflect on progress. They can occur during warm-ups, guided practice, collaborative work, or lesson closure. The goal is to continuously gather evidence of learning and adjust teaching accordingly.

6. Teacher Quick Reference Guide

- Ask students to summarize learning in one sentence.
- Use hand signals to instantly check understanding.
- Have students explain reasoning to a partner.
- Ask students to draw the concept.
- Use exit tickets to capture learning at the end of class.
- Use think■pair■share to reveal student thinking.
- Have students generate their own questions.
- Ask for examples and non■examples.
- Use mini whiteboards for quick problem solving.
- Use reflection prompts to support metacognition.