

A Blog for Busy Teachers

FREE LANGUAGE-BASED TEACHING STRATEGIES

Diagnostic Assessment Tools and Targeted Skills

Assessment Tools

Pre-Lesson Assessment

- **Pre-tests:** Designed for students to take before a new unit / new school year to discover what students know or don't know in a particular topic.
- **Free-write:** Students write on a topic of their choice as a way to determine student's writing skills
- **K.W.L charts:** Stands for "Knows, Wants to Know, and Learned and can assess student's background knowledge and interest on a given topic.
- **Analysis of student work:** Teachers can look at different types of assignments (tests, essays, journals, notes etc) and assess what students understand and/or don't know.
- **Interviews or checklists about learning behaviors:** Teachers design questions or likert scales to determine student's understanding of their own learning

Post-Lesson Assessment and Progress Monitoring Tools

- **Targeted data collection on specific skills:** Repeat a free-write assignment or a math test to gauge progress from the first attempt
- **Exit tickets:** This asks students to provide a synthesis of an aspect of the day's lesson
- **Concept Map:** Have students draw or visually represent their understanding of a concept
- **Journaling:** Have students self-reflect about their progress
- **Roll the Dice:** Each student gets a dice and based on the number rolled they can fill-in-the-blank for the below statements:
 1. I want to remember...
 2. Something I learned today
 3. One word to sum up what I learned
 4. Something I already knew
 5. I'm still confused about...



Content-Specific Diagnostic Skills

Math:

- Math fluency
- Number sense awareness

Examples of

Content-specific skills:

- Knowledge of whole numbers
- Understanding fractions
- Order of operations
- Negative integers
- Graphing linear functions in standard form

Reading:

- Accurate oral reading fluency
- Accurate rapid naming
- Accurate single word decoding
- Accurate reading comprehension
- Knowledge of spelling and alphabet

Writing

- Knowledge of parts of speech
- Application of complete sentence structure
- Application of logical paragraph structure
- Use of correct spelling
- Use of Punctuation
- Use and/or varying of transitions