



Activity 3.1

Connecting Your Own Experiences to the Keys to Quality

Learning Target for the Activity

- Know why the five keys to quality assessment should underpin assessments at all levels.

Purpose

By discussing the impact on students of sound and unsound assessment practices through the filter of the five keys to classroom assessment quality, participants come to understand the necessity of each key for student academic well-being.

Time

45–60 minutes

Materials Needed

- The description of the five keys to classroom assessment quality found in this chapter

Suggested Room Setup

Tables and chairs for small groups (content or grade-level teachers may prefer to work together)

Directions

Participants can do the reading in advance of the activity or during it. At the outset of the activity, ask participants to form discussion groups of three, and appoint a note taker. Then ask them to do the following:

1. Think of a time when you yourself were assessed and it was a positive experience. What made it positive? What impact did that have on you? Share your experience and answers to the questions. Note taker: Keep track of the answers to the two questions (10–15 minutes).
2. Now think of a time when you were assessed and it was a negative experience. What made it negative? What impact did that have on you? Share your experience and answers to the questions. Note taker: Keep track of the answers to the two questions (10–15 minutes).
3. Read the descriptions of the five keys to classroom assessment quality, noting connections to the positive and negative experiences shared in your small group (15–20 minutes). Or if participants have previously read the section, ask them to review it, looking for connections to the positive and negative experiences shared in their groups (10 minutes).
4. In your small group compare your positive experiences with the descriptions of each of the five keys to assessment quality. Which of the keys contributed to your positive experience? (You can also do this as a large-group discussion.)
5. Now compare your negative experiences with the descriptions of each of the five keys to assessment quality. What problems with one or more of the keys contributed to your negative experience? (You can also do this as a large-group discussion.)

Closure

Small-group/team discussion: which of the keys to quality are the most in need of attention in your own assessments? Why?