

FIGURE 7.2 Recognizing the ethical and appropriate use of student assessment

Scenario 1. A high school English teacher has been teaching students how to write argumentative (persuasive) text by stating a clear thesis and using several different kinds of support. Students have written essays on their opinions about the importance of the electoral process in the United States. The teacher provided written feedback on each student's essay, handed them back today, and told the students to take their papers home.

- a. Is this practice ethical/appropriate?
- b. Why did you make this choice? Include your reasoning and evidence from the text of Chapter 7.

Scenario 2. On March 14 (3.14) all of the mathematics teachers in a building celebrate "Pi Day." Students were told they will receive bonus points on their report card grade if they bring a pie to class for the Pi Day party. The mother of one student made a homemade chocolate cream pie and sent it to school with the student, who received 10 bonus points.

- a. Is this practice ethical/appropriate?
- b. Why did you make this choice? Include your reasoning and evidence from the text of Chapter 7.

Scenario 3. In one fourth-grade class students are learning to multiply a fraction by a whole number. Today, they are doing practice work that will be used for formative assessment. Most of the students are working on a problem set with 10 problems. One student is allowed to use a multiplication chart because they have not memorized the multiplication facts through 10.

- a. Is this practice ethical/appropriate?
- b. Why did you make this choice? Include your reasoning and evidence from the text of Chapter 7.

Scenario 4. A middle school teacher has found that student test, homework, and classwork papers often are turned in without proper identification (name, date, period number). To address this problem, the teacher gives students 5 points (out of 100) for having their identification information in the upper-right-hand corner of each paper.

- a. Is this practice ethical/appropriate?
- b. Why did you make this choice? Include your reasoning and evidence from the text of Chapter 7.

Scenario 5. A 10th-grade student is taking a biology class that includes many performance assessments and other project-based work. The student dislikes projects because they take a long time and has asked the teacher to "just give me a test." The student asked if they could substitute the unit tests that came with the biology textbook for his project-based performance assessment. The teacher refused to allow this and said the student had to complete the performance assessments and other project-based work.

- a. Is this practice ethical/appropriate?
- b. Why did you make this choice? Include your reasoning and evidence from the text of Chapter 7.

Scenario 6. A high school student was absent from school for a week because of illness. On the day the student returned, the class was given a writing assignment that would count toward their report card grade. The teacher gave the student the directions for the assignment and said, "Just do your best."

- a. Is this practice ethical/appropriate?
- b. Why did you make this choice? Include your reasoning and evidence from the text of Chapter 7.

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Scenario 7. A high school history teacher assigned students to read four chapters in their textbook for a unit on early civilizations. The chapters described the rise of civilization in Ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, Ancient India, and Ancient China. During class time, the teacher gave lectures on these four civilizations that mirrored the material in the chapters. For a unit test the teacher gave the students an open-book test composed of 25 fill-in-the-blank questions.

- a. Is this practice ethical/appropriate?
- b. Why did you make this choice? Include your reasoning and evidence from the text of Chapter 7.

Scenario 8. A middle school science teacher gave students a test on the phases of the moon. It included 15 multiple-choice questions (1 point each), 5 short-answer questions (5 points each), and 1 longer essay question (10 points). The teacher scored the test using a key, recorded the results in the gradebook, and passed back the tests. As the class was going over the test, one student brought to the teacher's attention that the key for one of the multiple-choice questions must have been wrong. The teacher checked and found that to be true and asked the students to pass the tests back and rescored them, which changed the test grade for some students.

- a. Is this practice ethical/appropriate?
- b. Why did you make this choice? Include your reasoning and evidence from the text of Chapter 7.

Scenario 9. In an eighth-grade foreign language (French) class, students are learning the forms of the French verb *être*, which means "to be." Toward the end of that day's lesson, they take a 10-question quiz that is intended to help them see where they still need to study. Each answer is one or two words, representing some form of the verb. After the quiz, the teacher writes the answers on the board and has students switch papers with their elbow partners. The partners grade the quiz and pass them back to their owners.

- a. Is this practice ethical/appropriate?
- b. Why did you make this choice? Include your reasoning and evidence from the text of Chapter 7.

Scenario 10. One student in a fifth-grade class has an Individualized Education Program and is given extra time to do classroom assessments. Other students in the class complain, saying it's not fair to give that student extra time if they can't have extra time. The teacher explains that fair does not always mean equal. The students grudgingly accept what their teacher tells them, but they are still grumpy.

- a. Is this practice ethical/appropriate?
- b. Why did you make this choice? Include your reasoning and evidence from the text of Chapter 7.