

Assessment – for learning not of learning

Transparent and meaningful assessment – formative feedback
– marking criteria – leading to learning outcomes

Peer and self assessment – formative assessment

Preparation – vital

- Students need to understand what learning activity is all about
- Tutors need clear reasons for using procedure – what type of learning?

Task – consideration

- Formative feedback built in
- Assessment process and product

Implementation – attention to detail

- Marking criteria
- Exemplars

Evaluation – necessary

- Individual feedback – student learning?

- Student understanding
Case studies – Histology poster

Peer and self using marking criteria

Tutor criteria

- Well prepared – oral and written information – marking criteria
- Self explanatory – fine students understood. Clear and justified conclusion – poorly understood

Student generated criteria – tutor/student discussion

- Greater ownership – less able to distinguish between criteria
- Did not enhance student marking compared to tutor - learning

Different learning outcomes

Case studies – Histology poster

Peer and self using marking criteria

Exemplars with student generated criteria and formative discussions

- More closely marked to tutor
- Able to distinguish individual criteria

Able to mark the same not an indication of understanding the work – written comments and marks.

Written comments did not reflect the science – nothing on magnification – stains used.

What did the assessment show – what type of learning is taking place?

Using criteria to mark but not to learn?

Assessment process – assessment product

Formative Feedback

Can be used in: practical/workshop classes, small group teaching, problem based learning, one-to-one, projects, large groups (less variation).

Students need to be aware of the role of formative feedback

But what type of feedback are you giving?

Ways students use feedback:

Enhance motivation
Enhance learning
Encourage reflection
Clarify understand

Also

Encompass wider issues – linked to feedforward – criteria
Mechanistic – feedback in the margin

Tutor specific – influence how students response to feedback

Oral formative feedback – seen as very important

What type of feedback do we give? - clarification

What type of learning are we encouraging? What learning does the feedback encourage to? Are we encouraging students to reflect?

Closing thoughts

Learning outcomes – what learning students should be able to demonstrate.

Assessment – not something done to students, but with students and for students

Assessment design enhancing specific learning

Consider the role of feedback – the student as a consumer

Design sessions to be as formative as possible – students need to be aware of how they will use content in order to attempt assignments.

Student as a reflective learner

How genuine is the learning activity

References

Boud, D. [1990] Assessment and the promotion of academic values, *Studies in Higher Education*, 15 [1], pp. 101-111.

Dochy, F., Segers, M., and Sluijsmans, D (1999) The use of self-, peer and co-assessment in higher education: a review, *Studies in Higher Education*, 24, 331-350.

Gosling, D. and Moon, J (2001) *How to use learning outcomes and assessment criteria*. London: Southern England Consortium for Credit Accumulation and Transfer.

Higgins, R., Hartley, P. and Skelton, A (2001) Getting the message across: the problem of communicating assessment feedback, *Teaching in Higher Education*, 6(2) pp. 269-274.

Higgins, R., Hartley, P. and Skelton, A (2001) The conscientious consumer reconsidering the role of assessment feedback in student learning, *Studies in Higher Education*, 27(1) pp.53-64.

Hinett, K. (1998) The role of dialogue and self assessment in improving student learning, paper presented to *British Educational Research Association Annual Conference*, The Queen's University of Belfast, 27-30 August.

Hinett, K. [1995] Fighting the assessment war: the idea of assessment-in-learning, *Quality in Higher Education*, 1 (3) pp. 211-222

Lea, M. R. and Street, B. V. (2000) Student writing and staff feedback in higher education: An academic literacies approach, in: Lea, M and Stierer, B (Eds) *Students writing in Higher Education: New Contexts* (Buckingham The Society for Research into Higher Education and Open University).

Orsmond, P., Merry, S., Reiling, K, (2002) The use of exemplars and formative feedback when using student derived marking criteria in peer and self assessment., *Assessment & Evaluation*

Orsmond, P., Merry, S., and Callaghan, A, C, (2003) Implementation of a formative assessment model incorporating peer and self assessment, *Innovations in Education and Training International*, tba.

Orsmond, P. and Stiles, M. (2002) University teaching: a challenge to staff development, *Innovations in Education and Training International*, tba.

Rust, C (2002) The impact of assessment on student learning: how can research literature practically help to inform the development of departmental assessment strategies and learner-centred assessment practice, *Active Learning in Higher Education*, 3(2) pp. 145-158.

Stefani, L. A. J.(1998) Assessment in partnership with learners, *Assessment and Evaluation in Higher Education*, 23, 339-50

Stefani, L. A. J., Clarke, J. and Littlejohn, A. H. (2000) Developing a student-centred approach to reflective learning, *Innovation in Education and training International*, 37, 163 171.

Trigell, K. (2001) Judging university teaching, *The International Journal for Academic Development*, 6(1), pp. 65-73.

Trigwell, K., Prosser, M and Waterhouse, F. (1999) Relation between teachers' approaches to teaching and students' approaches to learning, *Higher Education*, 37, pp. 57-70.

Thorpe, M. (2000) Encouraging students to reflect as part of the assignment process, *Active Learning in Higher Education*, 1(1) pp. 79-92

