

Assessment

in the Online Classroom

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It's your choice

- ◆ Choose the traditional format (quizzes, essays, etc.), alternative format (performance-based), or both
- ◆ Either way, be sure to:
 - Match the assessment to your student learning outcomes and/or objectives
 - Inform students of rules, procedures, criteria, etc.
 - Give students proper, and prompt, feedback
 - Prepare for student excuses

Prepare for excuses

- ◆ Some excuses might be legitimate, some might not
- ◆ Most common: “a technical problem kept me from finishing the exam”
- ◆ No way for you to know for sure, so have a policy in place

Exam policy

- ◆ Some possibilities:
 - No makeups
 - If granted a makeup, have to complete entire exam from beginning
 - Have to come to campus to complete the makeup
 - If exceed the time limit, 1-point deduction for each minute late



Traditional formats



- ◆ Multiple choice
- ◆ True-false
- ◆ Short answer
- ◆ Matching
- ◆ Essay
- ◆ Etc.

Traditional formats: Design tips

- ◆ Design lengthy exams so students see questions one at a time
- ◆ If presenting all questions on one screen, divide lengthy exams into multiple smaller exams
 - Tell students to save after each answer

Alternative formats

- ◆ Performance-based assessment
 - Web sites
 - PowerPoint presentations
 - Video demonstrations
 - Case studies
 - Portfolios
- ◆ Also: open-book tests, self-tests, research assignments, etc.
- ◆ These formats tend to minimize cheating

And speaking of cheating. . .

Here are some ways to minimize cheating:

- ◆ Collect a writing sample(s)
- ◆ Write creative essay questions
 - Ask students to apply what they have learned
 - Require higher-order thinking along with supporting factual knowledge
 - Examples: state & defend a position, role-play a certain perspective
- ◆ Record chats for reference

Minimizing cheating

- ◆ Call students to discuss a point further after an exam
- ◆ Have proctored exams
- ◆ Use an anti-plagiarism service
- ◆ Set time limits on tests, prohibit backtracking, force completion
 - Tell students up front your policy if they have technical problems
- ◆ Randomize quiz questions and answers

After the assessment

- ◆ Use results to:
 - determine how valid and reliable your assessment was
 - determine if your students met the student learning outcome and/or objective
 - improve the assessment for the future
- ◆ If you assess via quizzes, use the Blackboard statistical tools