A Picture is Worth A Thousand Words:

Low Stakes Assessments

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My role
Your role
It’s a Mind Set

"mindset" {noun}

a set of beliefs or a way of thinking that determines one's behavior, outlook and mental attitude.

The problem is not the problem. The problem is your attitude about the problem.

Do you understand?
- Captain Jack Sparrow
Not easy... Takes some time...
High Stakes Assessments

Any assessment that has major consequences

Any assessment that:
- is a single defined assessment
- has a clear line between passing and failing
- has direct consequences for passing or failing
High Stakes Assessment Criticisms

- Doesn’t correctly measure individual’s knowledge or skill
- May no measure what the tester really wants to test
- Can cause stress which hinders actually relay of knowledge
- Often given as a “single” long exam
- Creates an incentive for cheating
Low Stakes Assessment

Assessments that encourage student and teacher reflection and are used to inform the teaching and learning process within classrooms.
Low Stakes Assessment Benefits

- Increases student participation and engagement
- Gives realistic idea of performance in class early
- Allows instructors to evaluate level of student participation
- Allows students to be creative and use critical thinking skills
Low Stakes Assessments Benefits

- Easy to grade
- Higher rate of completion
- Higher levels of creativity
- Higher levels of cognitive function (thought)
Examples of Low Stakes Assessment

- Writing based course
- Brainstorming
- Thesis Statements
- Outlines
- Annotated bibliography
- 1 minute class summaries – exit papers
Examples of Low Stakes Assessment

- Quick writes
- freewrites
- Inkshedding
- Drafts
Examples of Low Stakes Assessment

- Reflection journals
  - Shared Google document
    - What they learned
    - How to apply what they learned
    - How they practice what they learned
Examples of Low Stakes Assessment

- Interviews
  - Retired professional
    - Set questions
    - Free questions
    - Write up of interview
Examples of Low Stakes Assessment

- PSA – Public Service Announcement
  - 1-2 minute PSA
  - Use a cell phone, iPad, web-cam, flip video
  - Submit written script along with video
  - Specific content to be included in interview
Examples of Low Stakes Assessment

- Collages
  - Themes
  - Specific course content
  - Specific course objective
Leadership Collage

CYCLICAL

Ethical

Personable

Service

Genuine

PASSION

Caring

Open-minded

Courage

Followership

Listen

Strength

High Road
Low Road →
Examples of Low Stakes Assessment

- Wordle
  - Based on interview
  - Based on conversation
  - Based on poll
  - Based on readings
Wordle

culture
differences
Embracing
cultures
Acceptance
Accepting
Open
Beliefs
Made
humankind
Open
someone
things
parameters
appreciation
laws
Embracing
differences
Embracing
differences
Made
humankind
Open
someone
things
parameters
appreciation
laws
Made
humankind
Open
someone
things
parameters
appreciation
laws
Made
humankind
Open
someone
things
parameters
appreciation
laws
different
Examples of Low Stakes Assessment

- Prezi
  - Non-linear ppt

Personal Leadership Development Plan
Examples of Low Stakes Assessment

- **Venn Diagram**
  - Compare and Contrast

**Martin Luther King Jr.**
- Civil Rights Leader
- Fearless, Gentle Approach to Change, "I Have A Dream" speech.

**Oprah Winfrey**
- Worldwide Speaker, Advocate For Education Around The Globe
- Empathetic Leader, Giver.

Public Speakers, African American Role Models
Examples of Low Stakes Assessment

- Free Choice
Examples of Low Stakes Assessment

- Twitter
  - Happening around them
Examples of Low Stakes Assessment

- Everyday challenges for “no grade”
  - Discussion oriented
Remember

- With LSA’s students become active learners
  - Involves students ideas, thoughts and thinking
  - Allows students to express what they know
  - Many LSA’s lead to higher gains in final projects
  - Gives instructor a barometer on class understanding
  - Students can focus on learning not on grade
  - Requires less from instructor – grading, scoring, comments
Sometimes it works... Sometimes ???

Never Give Up!
Your Thoughts/Experiences/Examples
Thank You

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