

**Title of Session:** Classroom Assessment

**Moderator:** Maryann Durland

**Title of File:** 20091008assessment

**Date:** October 8, 2009

Room: Classroom Assessment Group

**BJB2:** shall we start with introductions, Maryann?

**MaryannDu:** sounds good

**BJB2:** btw, if you're new to Tapped In, a reminder to go to the Actions menu in the top right of the chat and select DETACH

**BJB2:** you can also go to Actions and select Larger Text

**MaryannDu:** I am an education researcher and I focus on classroom assessment. I teach reading methods courses at a small college.

**BJB2:** this will make your chat larger and easier to follow

**VanessaG:** ok thanks

**MaryannDu:** I am in West Virginia

**SelinaSa:** ok thank you

**BJB2:** I'm a retired arts and communication teacher and always learn lots from Maryann's discussions!

**VanessaG:** hello Maryann

**MaryannDu:** hello

**SelinaSa:** hi Maryann

**CatalinaG:** I am junior at tamuk and plan on teaching second graders

**MaryannDu:** almost there

**VanessaG:** I am a freshman at tamuk

**MaryannDu:** wow

**MaryannDu:** are you going into teaching also?

**MaryannDu:** where is tamuk?

**VanessaG:** I would love to teach 4th or 5th grade

**MaryannDu:** that are still fun at that grade!

**CatalinaG:** Maryann what do you mean by classroom assessment

**SelinaSa:** I am in tamuk also and I am a soph

**VanessaG:** sorry in Kingsville, Texas A&M

**MaryannDu:** I love 7th grade!

**MaryannDu:** ok

**CatalinaG:** tamuk is in Kingsville Texas

**MaryannDu:** classroom assessment mean all of the types of assessments teachers use for many different reasons.

**CatalinaG:** Maryann do you have any advice for the ones still in school

**MaryannDu:** classroom assessment can mean formal assessments, like a test or a checklist, or a diagnostic assessment; or informal to see if things are learned

**MaryannDu:** which ones still in school?

**MaryannDu:** what level of school

**VanessaG:** I am

**CatalinaG:** say for even mathematics because I am weak in math and am afraid of not having the students learn

**VanessaG:** freshman

**MaryannDu:** ok

**SelinaSa:** I am still in school I am a soph

**CatalinaG:** I am a junior need one more year before graduating college

**MaryannDu:** so for you to learn so that you can both understand classroom assessments and use them now as well as later as a teacher

**MaryannDu:** yes.

**MaryannDu:** several different threads there

**MaryannDu:** first, for yourself, there may be some things in the files section about different kinds of assessment formats - for tests like true/false, etc

**SelinaSa:** ok so classroom assessments are just things you do in school

**CatalinaG:** is this located in the welcome screen

**MaryannDu:** and guidelines for making a good test item

**BJB2** listens to Maryann

**MaryannDu:** yes, or on the side, under files

**MaryannDu:** I may have taken it down, but I will look

**VanessaG:** where am I supposed to be looking

**BJB2** . o O ( if you detached your chat, your web window is behind the chat )

**MaryannDu:** way on the left side, under the section called files

**CatalinaG:** thanks bjb

**MaryannDu:** there is a file called item rubrics.

**MaryannDu:** it is a rubric for writing all kinds of items. like true false, matching, etc.

**BJB2** . o O ( you can come back later and explore the resources in this room...and a reminder that you will automatically be emailed a transcript of this chat when you log out )

**VanessaG:** ok I found the file, I click on it?

**BJB2:** when you click on a file a new screen will pop open for you, Vanessa

**MaryannDu:** it helps to understand what an item should do and in knowing that it can help you answer the item or write a better one

**MaryannDu:** yes,

**CatalinaG:** Maryann how long have you been working on classroom assessments

**VanessaG:** ok, I see it

**MaryannDu:** about 40 years!

**BJB2** smiles.

**CatalinaG:** how that is awesome I want to thank you for all your hard work

**MaryannDu:** in those years, (and I don't look quite that old, but I am feeling it)

**MaryannDu:** I have learned a lot

**VanessaG:** that's great

**BJB2** winks at Maryann...you started teaching when you were 12!

**CatalinaG:** I hope to be like you making a difference for teachers along with the students

**VanessaG:** I am sure I will learn a lot from you

**MaryannDu:** a couple of months into 12!!!

**SelinaSa:** well that is a long time to be working with the same thing

**MaryannDu:** well, I do think that we have to be lifelong learners

**CatalinaG:** do you have any tips for us

**VanessaG:** it was addicting

**BJB2** . o O ( we are truly blessed that Maryann leads these monthly assessment discussions! )

**MaryannDu:** well not actually the same thing

**MaryannDu:** lol, but I do have a passion for assessment.

**MaryannDu:** and that has been a thread through all the things I have done

**MaryannDu:** I have learned that it is a very clear path to understanding assessment; but not each to get all the pieces that add up to a whole

**BJB2** . o O ( you've already been given two key ingredients for a successful career in education: lifelong learning and passion for what you do )

**SelinaSa:** well the good thing is that we have people like you in this world that like to make a change

**BJB2** sits on her hands and listens to Maryann

**CatalinaG:** I was wondering were are you located?

**SelinaSa:** I think its very important to love what you do for a living

**MaryannDu:** the path is 1. know what you want the student to learn. 2. know how you what the student to demonstrate what they know. 3. plan instructional practices (not teaching, but instruction), that get the student there, and then do it

**MaryannDu:** I am in Elkins WV

**CatalinaG:** bjb you are a great listener

**MaryannDu:** yes, she is!

**MaryannDu:** I hope I make a difference

**VanessaG:** I like how organized it is, easy to follow

**MaryannDu:** but I do like the one on one, even here

**CatalinaG:** so I should follow your path to try to become a productive teacher

**SelinaSa:** I think you are making a difference already

**MaryannDu:** yes. but also hard to do.

**MaryannDu:** but I think that we have to think in big chunks and use tools that are there for us.

**MaryannDu:** like the standards

**VanessaG:** I see

**CatalinaG:** I know because each child is different

**MaryannDu:** and text books that have tons of things in them to use

**VanessaG:** I was about to ask

**SelinaSa:** yes I agree with you Catalina each child is different

**CatalinaG:** it is great idea to gather as much information as possible

**MaryannDu:** I think that the two things that a teacher needs to know to really teach well, is how to manage a classroom so that no child is dependent on the teacher for every step, and to teach children how to own their own learning. if we do these two things, kids will not be board, and we will have time to work with the ones who really need a lot of help

**VanessaG:** I agree, Catalina, the years go by so fast

**MaryannDu:** yes, they do!

**MaryannDu:** bored

**CatalinaG:** my main worry is math I am weak in this subject and I want to become better for the students

**VanessaG:** absolutely

**SelinaSa:** I think we need to make learning fun so the children wont be bored in class

**VanessaG:** I couldn't agree with you more, Maryann

**MaryannDu:** I think and I think it is more and more critical, that teachers really understand how learning occurs, and do lots of hands on and help students own learning.

**LindaLar** joined the room.

**MaryannDu:** if kids own learning, they are proud of what they do, and they know how to keep busy.

**BJB2:** welcome, Linda

**SelinaSa:** I think that children now learn more with hands on learning

**LindaLar:** thank you

**VanessaG:** yes that will help them withhold the information

**CatalinaG:** in your files are there examples of classroom assessments?

**VanessaG:** hi Linda

**MaryannDu:** if you need help in math, start going through the kids books, with a teachers manual and do the hands on things that are there for the kids to do

**MaryannDu:** I can't remember.

**CatalinaG:** thanks for the information I need it as much as I can get THANKS!!!

**MaryannDu:** but you can look in teachers manuals and find tons of ideas. no matter what the book, most are fairly good, and have a lot of information.

**VanessaG:** do they have examples of these at university libraries?

**MaryannDu:** use them to figure out what they want the student to do, and what the teacher needs to do so that the student can be successful

**MaryannDu:** if you have an education department, they will have all sorts of textbooks somewhere.

**MaryannDu:** in the library, or in the education department in a library

**CatalinaG:** it takes an enormous amount of work and dedication to do this

**VanessaG:** that's a good idea that I definitely want to do

**SelinaSa:** I think that there is some in our library here in tamuk

**MaryannDu:** well, I think that teachers work too hard doing busy work. and not hard enough in the planning and thinking.

**MaryannDu:** for example. we do not need to take every paper home to grade. students should grade their own papers. work in pairs, do their own, etc.

**CatalinaG:** I believe this because there are so many school systems without dedicated teachers

**MaryannDu:** that makes a student own the learning.

**VanessaG:** makes them actually see their mistakes

**SelinaSa:** I think its better to have students grade their papers so they can know what they did wrong and be able to fix it

**MaryannDu:** well, part of it is that schools have to change and it is very hard to change, and there are very few models of what a different kind of school would look like

**MaryannDu:** right

**LindaLar:** you are so right seems they want to be better for their friends than the teacher

**VanessaG:** that's sad

**MaryannDu:** and it is not about cheating and so on, but about the learning.

**CatalinaG:** If they see what they are doing wrong it will help them in asking questions

**MaryannDu:** yes

**VanessaG:** you're there for the kids not the faculty

**MaryannDu:** learning and seeing what needs to be learned is different from doing something for a grade

**LindaLar:** that's the big thing they don't ask questions and that's the teacher's fault

**MaryannDu:** yes

**MaryannDu:** doing something for a grade

**LindaLar:** we have to pull questions from them and that's how we know what they are learning

**SelinaSa:** yes students don't ask question because they think the other student will make fun of them that's what I think

**VanessaG:** what's a good way of pulling questions from them

**LindaLar:** asking questions shows they are thinking and that is what we have to impress on them tell them there are no stupid questions

**CatalinaG:** getting the children involved is a plus

**MaryannDu:** well, first asking the right questions. always helps. but then also scaffolding questions. asking them in steps

**MaryannDu:** young children start off asking questions.

**LindaLar:** and just saying "that's a good question" will stop the laughing

**MaryannDu:** no question is a bad question

**MaryannDu:** yes

**SelinaSa:** I think a good one is to talk to each student by themselves and maybe they ask more questions

**VanessaG:** like getting it out of them without them even knowing it



**MaryannDu:** yes

**MaryannDu:** also no judgments

**LindaLar:** true

**LindaLar:** definitely no judgments

**VanessaG:** right you don't want to put the down

**LindaLar:** if we can get them to ask more questions we know what has to be taught

**LindaLar:** and when we ask questions we have to make sure it is not just a yes or no answer

**MaryannDu:** I have a student who always asks dumb questions - so her friends think and you can tell she was thought that through school. she whines, etc. but she said something the other day, and it was totally right, and I said so, now she is changing about how she answers, and the class is stopping the laughing

**SelinaSa:** I think no judgments is good because I am the type of person that doesn't like to ask questions because I am shy and think people are going to judge me

**MaryannDu:** right.

**MaryannDu:** she thought that all through schools

**LindaLar:** true Selina if we are like that imagine them

**CatalinaG:** that is a big issue being shy for children and we have to break that cycle

**MaryannDu:** she is starting to speak up more, no whining... I don't know... etc, but now she just says it out loud.

**MaryannDu:** yes.

**VanessaG:** I completely agree

**LindaLar:** we have to make sure they know that asking questions shows they are THINKING and if they are thinking they are learning

**MaryannDu:** and we want kids to feel comfortable

**VanessaG:** so many times a want to ask and I don't

**MaryannDu:** find ways that they can be comfortable and accepted

**MaryannDu:** right

**MaryannDu:** you hope the one kid who always talks will say it

**VanessaG:** yes!!!

**LindaLar:** perhaps ask for exit questions on an index card and they can be addressed next lesson

**VanessaG:** like I'm thinking ask it

**SelinaSa:** I think that is very important to make children comfortable with you so they can speak up and not be shy

**MaryannDu:** part of that is making sure everyone is heard, but not forcing and doing things that help kids learn to listen

**MaryannDu:** taking time

**CatalinaG:** making the classroom a wonderful setting will probably help out

**VanessaG:** I agree

**VanessaG:** make it feel warm and cozy

**LindaLar:** in nyk is hard 30-35 kids all different levels cozy it isn't

**CatalinaG:** I have visited classroom in the past and can see the difference of students

**VanessaG:** make them feel like it's a safe place to be

**SelinaSa:** yes and like if you make it feel like home I think it will make it even more comfortable

**MaryannDu:** saying things like. Let's spend a few seconds thinking and then we will listen. and then after saying ok. now lets be quiet for a second and see if anyone has something to share that hasn't said anything yet.

**CatalinaG:** Linda you are in New York

**MaryannDu:** wow

**LindaLar:** yes

**MaryannDu:** yes,

**MaryannDu:** same in Chicago

**MaryannDu:** I work there a lot

**LindaLar:** not wow still looking for a job

**LindaLar:** mayor put a hiring freeze on

**MaryannDu:** not good

**VanessaG:** why

**LindaLar:** \$\$

**CatalinaG:** I am excited because here there are people from all parts of the world which is awesome

**VanessaG:** darn, that stinks

**MaryannDu:** yes, it is very fun

**LindaLar:** where are you

**MaryannDu:** I am in WV

**LindaLar:** nice

**MaryannDu:** but also work in Chicago and other places

**CatalinaG:** I am in a small town in Texas Riviera

**LindaLar:** I am thinking about relocating to PA to work

**VanessaG:** I am in Kingsville

**MaryannDu:** yes, that is nice. I went to Pitt. loved it

**SelinaSa:** yes Catalina there are people all over and I think that is awesome

**MaryannDu:** it

**CatalinaG:** bjb where are you from

**MaryannDu:** it is hard to create a classroom that is different.

**MaryannDu:** she is from pa

**SelinaSa:** I am in Kingsville Texas

**MaryannDu:** self contained is easier, and if you team with someone who is like minded, but with departments it is hard

**LindaLar:** so true

**CatalinaG:** Linda you are a teacher already

**MaryannDu:** I have a dream. called getting to the gym

**VanessaG:** I honestly think a lot about how I would set up my classroom

**MaryannDu:** yes, it is very fun

**VanessaG:** lol

**LindaLar:** I think team teaching with inter dept is great for teachers and students.

**LindaLar:** but it is hard to do because of "status quo"

**MaryannDu:** my dream is that say a seventh grade school, or jr high. is there. everyone goes to the gym

**CatalinaG:** I need to look into that so I can prepare myself

**VanessaG:** what's status quo

**MaryannDu:** and no one comes out until every child feels that they will go to high school and be successful.

**LindaLar:** department vs. department instead of working together

**VanessaG:** oh

**MaryannDu:** status quo means the way things are now. the general way things are done

**VanessaG:** I see how that would make it hard

**MaryannDu:** the typical way

**CatalinaG:** my dream is to make a difference and be able to see my students graduate

**MaryannDu:** yes

**MaryannDu:** it takes a lot

**VanessaG:** absolutely

**SelinaSa:** yes Catalina that is my dream also

**LindaLar:** not only graduate but want to continue to learn either in college or career

**MaryannDu:** and we make such a difference

**MaryannDu:** yes

**LindaLar:** just one student at a time

**CatalinaG:** it is not easy being a teacher especially with the pay

**MaryannDu:** to have a vision for their own life

**SelinaSa:** I want to become a teacher that make a difference

**MaryannDu:** no it is not

**VanessaG:** no it's not

**MaryannDu:** very hard

**VanessaG:** that's why its important to do something that you love

**MaryannDu:** that is why schools have to become communities of learners, faculties have to be learners and share the thinking and work

**MaryannDu:** do things different

**LindaLar:** people think I am crazy - I am a career changer after 30 years going for my masters in ed to teach

**VanessaG:** I agree

**MaryannDu:** so that it is not each teacher out on their own

**MaryannDu:** nice

**CatalinaG:** the classroom assessments are they different for each subject

**LindaLar:** in nyk they are

**MaryannDu:** !I worked with second career teachers in Alabama. and you are very good

**LindaLar:** I always wanted to do this so here I go!

**CatalinaG:** we need all the teachers we could possibly get

**MaryannDu:** how exciting!

**VanessaG:** as far as working together

**MaryannDu:** very very nice

**MaryannDu:** you bring a different work perspective to the field

**MaryannDu:** yes,

**SelinaSa:** I have always wanted to become a teacher since I was a child so hopefully it works out

**LindaLar:** I hope so and I do have the war stories to tell them

**VanessaG:** that's so good

**MaryannDu:** classroom assessments are ways we use to get information.

**LindaLar:** and seeing an "old lady" going to school helps too

**CatalinaG:** I can not remember but in you files are there examples of class assessments

**VanessaG:** that would interest me

**MaryannDu:** lol

**MaryannDu:** maybe.

**MaryannDu:** there is an article on why assess that may help

**LindaLar:** where

**MaryannDu:** generally when we say assessments, (files)

**MaryannDu:** people think a test

**CatalinaG:** great I love this

**MaryannDu:** but assessments are more than a test

**MaryannDu:** they provide information on learning, and one way we can use some of the information is as a test for a grade

**MaryannDu:** but asking the question of 1st graders - how many of you can write your name? is an assessment

**CatalinaG:** this is wonderful I love Tapped In my professor introduced this to the class

**VanessaG:** I understand

**MaryannDu:** when they write it on a piece of paper for you that is another assessment

**MaryannDu:** wow, thank you professor!

**LindaLar:** me too

**SelinaSa:** really I didn't know that was an assessment

**MaryannDu:** you would look at the letter formation, if they knew upper and lower case letters, could stay on a line, etc

**LindaLar:** Maryann are our observations also part of assessments?

**VanessaG:** I am really sorry but I need to go pickup my son at 7

**MaryannDu:** then you would know what to teach

**MaryannDu:** yes,

**CatalinaG:** I am because she wants us to learn from others around the world with their own ideas

**MaryannDu:** that is a method for getting data and assessment is all about data

**MaryannDu:** great

**VanessaG:** but this was by far the best and most informative chat I have ever been apart of

**MaryannDu:** so observations are assessment

**MaryannDu:** thank you!

**MaryannDu:** every month

**MaryannDu:** and you can always email in between

**SelinaSa:** this my most informative chat also

**VanessaG:** yes mam, thank you

**CatalinaG:** I love chatting with all of you and I want to thank each of you

**MaryannDu:** you are very welcome.

**BJB2:** Join this group and you will be in contact with all members...

**MaryannDu:** we generally have a very nice chat in here!

**VanessaG:** I feel good cause I really feel I learned something

**BJB2:** the next Classroom Assessment discussion will be November 12

**MaryannDu:** good!

**MaryannDu:** thank you

**SelinaSa:** yes I feel I learned something new

**CatalinaG:** my son has a football game and I need to watch him for the last quarter go seahawks!!

**LindaLar:** yes and it so good to talk to others - you don't feel like you are doing it alone

**MaryannDu:** lol

**SelinaSa:** well you learn something new every day

**MaryannDu:** no problem

**LindaLar:** Catalina wish him luck

**MaryannDu:** yes, that is so true

**VanessaG:** bye

**MaryannDu:** yes, I agree. I think we need more conversation.

**CatalinaG:** Thank You so much Maryann for all your help!!! Thank you Thank you



**MaryannDu:** in fact I teach my students that the teaching learning relationship is a conversatoin

**SelinaSa:** yes thank you Maryann for all your help

**MaryannDu:** when we teach we are only teaching if we are in the conversation

**BJB2:** If you would like information on how to join this group, let me know

**LindaLar:** yes please

**CatalinaG:** I agree with you Maryann conversation is a must!!!

**MaryannDu:** you are welcome

**MaryannDu:** conversation is how we create shared meaning

**CatalinaG:** Thank you once again and I have to leave bye y'all

**LindaLar:** and clarification

**MaryannDu:** how we know what kids know etc

**MaryannDu:** and clarification!

**MaryannDu:** bye

**LindaLar:** thanks

**SelinaSa:** thank you for everything goodbye

**BJB2:** I'll enter directions in the transcript...you can do this later: find the green i on the web window in the Welcome note. Select the green i and you will see the group ID page. Select Join this group at the top of the ID page.

**MaryannDu:** yes

**CatalinaG:** until we meet again!!

**BJB2** hugs Maryann. Thanks!

**MaryannDu:** until later

**MaryannDu:** lol

**LindaLar:** thanks so much

**CatalinaG:** big hugs from me too

**MaryannDu:** thank you

**BJB2:** see you in November