

Formative Assessment: Whiteboards

Teaching Strategies Series

Teaching Strategies segments are brief 1-3 minute videos that feature examples of effective classroom practices from teachers around the country.

About this Segment

In this segment, secondary teachers from around the United States formatively assess student learning using whiteboards. Whiteboards are an effective, informal way to determine each student's level of mastery and provides an opportunity for teachers to clarify any break downs in understanding new content.

Suggested PD Activities

Educators may use the Teaching Strategies video segments and accompanying materials as professional development on an individual basis or as part of a learning group.

Discussion: After watching the video, use the following prompt to facilitate discussion.

1. Have your students used personal whiteboards in class before? If so, given what criteria? What was the impact of this activity?

Reflection: After the discussion, participants are encouraged to record new learning and ideas. The following questions can be used to encourage reflection.



(Reflection questions can also be found online with the resources for this video.)

1. What are the benefits of using whiteboards to formatively assess student learning?
2. In what future activities do you plan to implement whiteboards?
3. What might you do differently from the educators featured in this segment when using whiteboards in your classroom?

Scholarly publications available on this topic:

Boston, Carol. "The Concept of Formative Assessment." ERIC Clearinghouse on Assessment, accessed on April 22, 2013 <http://www.vtaide.com/png/ERIC/Formative-Assessment.htm>

Online resources available on this topic:

"Assessment for Learning - A Salem High School Teacher Uses Whiteboards to Assess Students" <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zkpbbu4QC3M>.