

## Formative Assessment: Three-Sentence Essays



### Teaching Strategies Series

School Improvement Network's Teaching Strategies segments feature examples of effective classroom practices from teachers around the country.

### About this Segment

Ms. Christy Reasons, a 12th grade ELA teacher at Kerrick Elementary in Shelby County, Tennessee, uses three-sentence essays on an exit ticket to check student understanding of lesson content.

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### 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.** Before or after watching the video, participants can use the following prompt to facilitate discussion:

What are the benefits and potential drawbacks of using three-sentence essays to formatively assess student understanding?

**Reflection.** After watching the video, participants can answer the following questions to reflect on their learning:

1. What are the benefits of using three-sentence essays to assess student learning?
2. How would you integrate this strategy into your instruction?
3. What adaptations would you make in implementing three-sentence essays?

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### Academic publication available on this topic:

Marzano, Robert J., Debra Pickering, and Jane E Pollock. *Classroom Instruction that Works: Research-based Strategies for Increasing Student Achievement*. Alexandria, VA: ASCD, 2001.

### Online resource available on this topic:

"Summarization Techniques," West Virginia Department of Education, accessed November 7, 2013, <http://wvde.state.wv.us/strategybank/summarization.html>.