

Assessments and Assessment Tools

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DSPETL Tuning Protocol 4

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“We do not all start the journey in the same place”, exclaims Claudia Hagan about students in the classroom. The trip to understanding has the same destination, but teachers must differentiate to engage the students in learning. Marissa Christie took us on a trip through assessment of her class with Keeley Probes, dialogue, and sorting activities. Scholar Christie highlighted her use of diagrams to improve understanding of DOK level 3 and 4 content.

Assessing prior knowledge has become important to learn where the students are. According to Ormond (2020), connecting to prior knowledge engages the long-term memory of students. The Keeley Probes are excellent to “uncover student ideas” about the content. The probes can be used as a pre-assessment and following the lesson as a post assessment. I am using the probes to engage the students in the chat, reading aloud and as an assignment for individuals. Students are also chosen to answer aloud to explain their thinking. As Paige Keely explains, the probes can be used in a variety of ways.

Informal assessments are not taken for a grade. The importance in informal assessments lies in giving the teacher information to shift the teaching and inform the instruction. My presentation focused on including differentiated assessment to evaluate students at diverse levels. I learned that I scaffold the lessons by using the different tools that build from Level 1 DOK to Level 3 Depth of Knowledge. I utilize a variety for technology that is fun and engaging to improve student learning. I was reminded that an Exit Ticket is a terrific way to assess what students learned that day. Instead, I use the Quick Write and weekly assignments in Its Learning as an alternative to the Exit Ticket. It is easier to use as an assessment for one of two required grades for the week.

In conclusion, I understand that assessment is ongoing. I have asked students in the past, how did you like the lesson? What did you learn? The students always express their love for

science and this class. I will continue to keep them engaged and excited about science while getting them to improve their learning which in turn will improve their common assessment and summative assessment scores.