

Peer and Self-Assessments

Description In designing your assessment plan, you can also choose *who* should be doing the assessing. Thus far, we have assumed that the teacher is the person responsible for assessment. However, for all the assessment methods we discussed above, you also have the options of peer assessment and self-assessment.

- **Peer assessment** is assessment of students by other students. As more and more teamwork or group work is used in universities, peer assessment is becoming increasingly popular. Peer assessment can be formative or summative.

Formative peer assessment involves students giving feedback to each other to improve learning. Provision is made in class or online for students to give feedback on each other's performance based on a given set of criteria.

Summative peer assessment involves students grading each other's work. There are many ways to do this. In a written assignment each student can grade another student's paper based on a scoring rubric you provide for the class. In a presentation you can use a peer assessment scoring form. In a team project, you can ask the students within a team to negotiate and distribute a number of marks amongst themselves based on contribution to the team. Peer assessment grades usually complement the instructor's grades in summative assessment.

- **Self-assessment** is the assessment of learners by themselves. In order to perform meaningful self-assessment, you need to give students clear criteria by which they can assess themselves. This could be in the form of a scoring rubric. Once the students possess clear and written performance criteria, they can continuously assess their own performance and make improvement. Almost all self-assessment is formative in purpose.

What Outcomes are Assessed? Peer and self-assessment can be built into any of assessment methods described earlier. Again, the emphasis is on making explicit the outcomes assessed and their performance criteria by using a scoring rubric.

How Authentic is the Task? Peer and self-assessments are very much a part of modern human resource management practice. Students entering the work world will have to get used to assessing others and being assessed by others.

What Kind of Learning is Promoted?

- Self-assessment encourages learners to take ownership of and responsibility for their own learning – qualities of a lifelong learner.
- Peer assessment encourages collaborative learning. Educational psychology tells us that knowledge is first *socialised* before it is *internalised*. Peer assessment activities help bind learners together into a learning community. Through these formal and informal communities that generate knowledge, students will grow into lifelong learners.