USING ASSESSMENT TO IMPROVE INSTRUCTION

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PERSPECTIVES ON ASSESSMENT
- Multiple forms
- Multiple participants
- Multiple contexts

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF WRITING ASSESSMENT
- Indirect measure
- Direct impromptu
- Portfolio
- Directed self placement

ASSESSMENT FOR PLACEMENT
- Directed Self Placement
  - Shift to reading article and writing essay written at home during extended time
  - Answering questions that reflect on experiences with writing
  - Making decisions based on multiple pieces of data

2009 ESSAY
- Reading: Malcom Gladwell's “Most Likely to Succeed”
- Writing: Write a 750-900 word academic essay in response to the prompt below. By academic essay we mean one in which you take a position and support it with evidence from the article
- Prompt: Analyze Gladwell's proposal on how to select and retain teachers and argue for or against his proposal

ESSAY WILL BE EVALUATED ON....
- 1. Focus: your essay should be developed around a clear central thesis or argument, integrating your own views with material from the article.
- 2. Structure: your essay should be clearly organized in a way that elaborates on and supports your central thesis. Individual paragraphs should be cohesive, and your reader should be able to follow the logical progression of your ideas from one paragraph to the next.
- 3. Evidence/Analysis: make sure that you support your claims with well-chosen examples from the article, and that you explain how these examples support your points.
**Native English Speaker – DSP Reflection Questions**

1. In high school, I regularly wrote critical responses to assigned readings, as I did in this task.
2. In high school, I rarely had to write sustained and detailed arguments.
3. I am comfortable writing academic essays longer than four pages.
4. I have experience writing essays on a variety of topics in which I take a position and support that position using evidence.
5. In high school, I wrote essays that required library research and the citation of sources.
6. I read portions of the Gladwell article more than one time.
7. I am confident that I know how to write an effective essay in which I express and support a position.
8. I had trouble finding examples from the Gladwell article to support my argument.
9. In writing my response to the Gladwell article, I went back and looked over my own writing at least once.
10. I feel prepared to write similar essays in my first year of college without a lot of help from my instructor.

**Data Collecting, Analysis**

- Using UM’s Data Warehouse, SWC identified markers of students who performed in the lowest third of their first-year writing requirement course:
  - High School GPA ↓ 3.3
  - SAT Writing Score ↓ 520
  - SAT Verbal Score ↓ 520
  - ACT English Score ↓ 23
ADVISORS’ ROLE IN ASSESSMENT FOR PLACEMENT

- Provide and interpret information
- Help student make decision
**Assessment for Learning**

- Use essay for
  - Benchmark
  - Revision
  - Portfolio reflection

**What are Writing Portfolios?**

- Writing portfolios are a purposeful collection of student work that shows student’s efforts, progress, and achievement in (a) given area(s), including their meta-cognitive narrative of that progress.
- Include various texts and a reflective text

**Writing Portfolios: More Details**

- Record of prior writings out of which the writing emerges
- Reading, writing texts own developmental context
- Show product and process
- Reflection makes meaning more complex, less anonymous

**Writing Portfolios: Benefits**

- Documents and encourages students’ progress and reflection
- More complete picture of student work
- Generated during the process of instruction
- Foster critical approach to development and presentation of development

**What are Electronic Portfolios?**

- More than digital versions of paper portfolios
- E-portfolios are a thoughtfully arranged collection of multimedia-rich, interlinked documents that students compose and maintain on the Internet or in other formats
- Afford different rhetorical opportunities
- Allows students to engage in digital mediums reflectively

**Electronic Portfolios: Benefits**

- Resist linear model
- Show connections
- Showcase job-related accomplishments
- Shared across classes, groups
FOR INSTRUCTORS:
ASSESSING PORTFOLIOS MEANINGFULLY

- Assuming a greater role in institutional assessment
- Identifying principles and practices of e-portfolios that foster student reflection
- Providing opportunities for students to give each other feedback

ASSESSMENT IMPROVES INSTRUCTION BY...

- Taking multiple forms
- Involving multiple participants
- Occurring in multiple contexts