

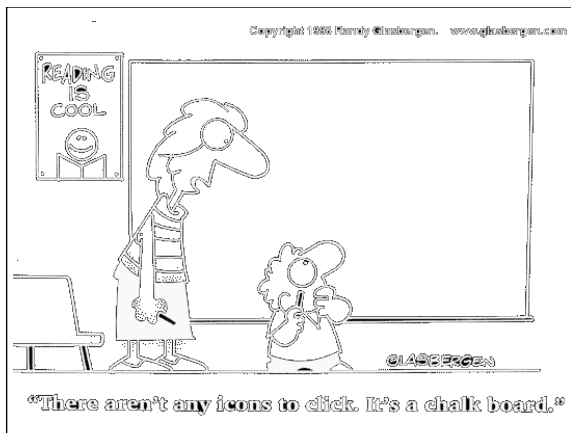
# Delivering Assessments Online

## The Pros and Cons

### Successes and Pitfalls

#### of Online Quizzes and

#### Assignments



## Schedule

- CIT: Mattheus Dahlberg, MA
- SON: Lisa Day, RN, PhD
- SOD: Gwen Essex, RDH, MS
- SOM: Chandler Mayfield
- SON: Rosemary Plank, RN, PhD
- Open Panel Discussion, Audience Q & A

## Definition of Assessment

- the evaluation or estimation of the nature, quality, or ability of someone or something : the assessment of educational needs
- evaluation, judgment, rating, estimation, appraisal, analysis, opinion
- all activities that teachers and learners undertake to get information that is used diagnostically to alter teaching and learning

## Assessment can include:

- Individual Assignments
- Group Projects
- Quizzes / Tests / Exams
- Surveys, Non-graded Quizzes
- Discussion
- Teacher Observation

## The Function of Assessments

- Diagnostic Assessments
  - Prior to learning
  - Identify learner strengths & weaknesses
- Formative Assessments
  - During learning
  - Guide an individual student's progress
  - Improve the curriculum
- Summative Assessments
  - After learning
  - For high-stakes evaluation, grading, & certification

## Pros of Online Assessment

- ⦿ Central Repository, avoids lost materials
- ⦿ Saves Time for scoring and evaluating tests
- ⦿ Instantaneous Feedback
- ⦿ Instantaneous Scoring Results
- ⦿ Convenient Delivery, whenever and wherever a student has internet access
- ⦿ Automatic Statistics & Tracking, to improve questions & materials
- ⦿ Quicker Assessment of students' progress and deficiencies
- ⦿ Faster, Easier Detection of Plagiarism

## Cons of Online Assessment

- ⦿ Initial Implementation may be challenging
- ⦿ Faculty & Staff Need Time to Learn New Tools
- ⦿ Software Upgrades May Require New Training
- ⦿ Unplanned or Unexplained Technical Problems
- ⦿ Significant Up-Front Development Time
- ⦿ Lower barriers to Cheating or Plagiarism
- ⦿ More Difficult Detection of Cheating
- ⦿ More Variation / Inconsistency in Student Environments

Many traditional assessment practices consist of essay problem-type examinations and growing reliance on multiple-choice questions, for easy designs. However, it is argued that these assessment practices cannot adequately test for critical thinking, creativity, reflection, and authentic learning. Recent developments in assessment are advocating alternative and diverse assessment methods, including peer assessment, portfolio, reflective journaling, self-assessment, and performance-based assessment, which are deemed to be constructive, authentic, contextualized assessment, and to promote deep learning and skills development.

-- Jeanette M. Bartley,  
University of Technology, Jamaica,  
Ch. 1, p. 14  
Online Assessment and Measurement:  
Foundations and Challenges,  
by Hricko & Howell 2005

## Techniques for Writing Multiple Choice Items that Demand Critical Thinking

- Premise - Consequence
- Analogy
- Case Study
- Incomplete Scenario
- Problem / Solution Evaluation

## Assessment and Online Delivery Use Matrix

	Practice	Diagnosis	Course Evaluation	Continuous Course Assessment	Screening / Placement	End of Course or Benchmark Assessment	Credentialing
Function	Diagnostic	Diagnostic	Formative	Formative	Formative	Summative	Summative
Outcomes	To help an examinee become familiar with test or item formats	To discover the strengths & weaknesses a person may have in a content area	To evaluate the effectiveness of curriculum, instructors or materials	To assess learner progress and provide feedback to the learner	To qualify or place a learner within a program	To provide a course grade or final assessment	To aid in the decision to license or certify an individual
Stakes	Low	Low to Medium	Low to Medium	Low to Medium	Medium	Medium	High
Delivery Method	Web-based	Web-based or Secure site	Web-based or Secure site	Web-based or Secure site	Web-based or Secure site	Web-based or Secure site	Secure site
Monitoring Requirements	Non-proctored	Proctored or Non-proctored	Non-proctored	Proctored or Non-proctored	Proctored	Proctored	Proctored
Interface and Access Restrictions	Unrestricted	Restricted or Unrestricted	Restricted or Unrestricted	Restricted or Unrestricted	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted

From: Online Assessment and Measurement: Foundations and Challenges, by Hricko & Howell 2005

## WebCT Assessment Tools:

- Assignment Tool
  - Controls submission dates & times
  - Repository for file attachments (any file type including MS Word, Powerpoint)
- Quiz & Survey Tool
  - Question Bank allows 5 types of Q's:
    - Multiple Choice / Matching / Calculated / Short Answer / Paragraph
- Discussion Tool
  - Public, group, & anonymous discussion