



Assessment

An Inquiry: Think about an assessment you had where you received effective feedback. How did that feedback help you?

Assessment is integral to all teaching and learning. It is central to the *Primary Years Program* goal of thoughtfully and effectively guiding students through the five essential elements of learning: the acquisition of knowledge, the understanding of concepts, the mastering of skills, the development of attitudes and the decision to take action. The prime objective of assessment in the PYP is to provide feedback on the learning process.

Assessment involves the gathering and analysis of information about student performance and is designed to inform practice. It identifies what students know, understand, can do, and feel at different stages in the learning process. Students and teachers should be actively engaged in assessing the students' progress as part of the development of their wider critical-thinking and self-assessment skills. Teachers need to employ techniques for assessing students' work that take into account the diverse, complicated and sophisticated ways that individual students use to understand experience. Everyone concerned with assessment, including students, teachers, parents and administrators, should have a clear understanding of the reason for the assessment, what is being assessed, the criteria for success, and the method by which the assessment is made. The *Primary Years Program* approach to assessment recognizes the importance of assessing the process of inquiry as well as the product(s) of inquiry, and aims to integrate and support both.

Assessment in the classroom will include:

- using representative examples of students' work or performance to provide information about student learning
- collecting evidence of students' understanding and thinking documenting learning processes of groups and individuals engaging students in reflecting on their learning
- students assessing work produced by themselves and by others
- developing clear rubrics