

Using Projects in Assessment

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A project is a formal assignment given to an individual student or a group of students on a topic related to the curriculum. It may involve both in-class and out-of-class research and development.

Examples:

- Models
- Maps
- Pictures
- Tables
- Graphs
- Collages
- Photographs
- Plays
- Films
- Videotapes
- Book

Primarily a learning activity rather than an evaluation activity.

Why Should We Use Projects?

- Encourage students to produce rather than reproduce.
- They help students develop and enhance
 - communication
 - technical
 - interpersonal
 - organizational
 - problem-solving
 - decision-making skills
 - creativity
- Not all students can achieve the same outcomes in the same way (i.e., multiple intelligences, learning styles, etc.)

Advantages of the Project Assignment

- Allows students to formulate their own questions and then try to find answers to them
- Provides students with opportunities to use their multiple intelligences to create a project
- Allows teachers to assign projects at different levels of difficulty to account for individual learning styles and ability levels
- Can be motivating to students
- Provides an opportunity for positive interaction and collaboration among peers
- Increases the self-esteem of students who would not get recognition on tests or traditional writing assignments
- Allows for students to share their learning with others
- Can achieve essential learning outcomes through application and transfer

How Should We Use Projects?

Provide samples or models of completed projects. Let students see models at below average, average, and superior levels.

Assess projects using rubrics and other performance criteria.

