



Alternatives to Traditional Exams and Paper Assessments

Have students:

1. Analyze and respond to a case study of a real-world situation that requires a particular problem to be examined, analyzed and solved based on the theory presented in class.
2. Develop a product or proposal that reflects particular outcomes. This provides students with the opportunities to try out their ideas and identify how they have synthesized the theory and transferred theory to application.
3. Complete an open book exam, in a specified period of time. The exam questions support students in applying knowledge to particular situations.
4. Complete a multiple-choice exam that requires students to identify the correct answer to each question, as well as why they chose the particular answer based on their learning and why the other answers are incorrect.
5. Complete an annotated bibliography to respond to a problem or a question. This requires students to read an array of articles, evaluate the articles for accuracy and congruency in relation to the course learning outcome being evaluated. Each entry requires students to provide an overview of the article and how it relates to their learning.
6. Write a memorandum, briefing or executive summary for a particular topic with specific headings such as: background, problem, possible solutions with pros and cons, conclusions, and recommendations, including why they are making such recommendations based on course content.
7. Complete a reflection paper on what they have learned in relation to specific learning outcomes. This paper requires students to tie their learning to the outcomes or themes in the course.
8. Create a portfolio that illustrates what they have learned in relation to each of the core learning outcomes. They include a brief introduction to each of the learning outcomes that they respond to.
9. Create a fact sheet that is intended for distribution to the public in the relevant sector that addresses specific learning outcomes. Based on the course content, they are required to include at least one reference for each fact presented.
10. Create a conference and collective presentation that requires students to synthesize core information reflective of specific learning outcomes. A voice-over presentation explaining the key points is required.
11. Develop a vlog (different from a blog) by providing students with real-world situations to examine. They identify and analyze core points of the situation and then prepare a vlog with diagrams and content to reflect the situation. This process requires students to synthesize and illustrate their learning on the subject.

Please consult with your Dean before making changes to your assessment strategies.

Key considerations to think about when choosing alternative assessment strategies for your course

1. What learning outcomes are you trying to assess – for example, are you wanting to assess your students’ understanding of specific content knowledge or how they apply the knowledge gained to new situations or both?
2. Are students required to assess characteristics of a particular product or process with specific criteria, or do you wish them to produce a product that illustrates particular characteristics?
3. Which of the following competencies are important for you to assess and if so, how might you do so?
 - a. Writing skills
 - b. Speaking and oral presentation skills
 - c. Use of information technology
 - d. Group work skills
4. Do some aspects of your assessments need to be time-constrained and if so, why?