

Reassessing Assessment

Mike Roberts

thebaldenglishteacher.com

@BaldRoberts (Twitter)

thebaldenglishteacher@gmail.com

1. Grade Things as a Class

- This will not only save you from hauling things home to grade, but it will also solidify the learning for students.
 - **The Good** - It saves you from hauling things home every night.
 - **The Better** - It gives students immediate results.
 - **The Best** - It solidifies the learning for students.

2. Let Students Self Assess

- Self assessments are great for citizenship and participation grades, but they also work just as well for projects. And depending on the learning management system your school uses, students can easily submit a video assessment to you.
 - **The Good** - Self-assessments empower students in the learning.
 - **The Better** - Self-assessments open the door for discussions.
 - **The Best** - Self-assessments build trust between you and your students.

3. Mix up Your Final Exams

- There are a lot of ways to assess a student's understanding of the material. Consider finding new ways, including projects, oral tests, and digital options, for students to show you what they've learned.
 - **The Good** - It's tough to cheat if the assignments are unique.
 - **The Better** - It's more fun grading a variety of assignments.
 - **The Best** - It allows students to play into their strengths.

4. Let Students Create Their Own Assessments

- This is a student-led assignment where the only requirements are 1) that students turn in an assignment that meets the learning target(s) and 2) they are proud of their work.
 - **The Good** - It's hard to complain about things when you are in charge.
 - **The Better** - It helps students analyze, synthesize, and create.
 - **The Best** - It makes the learning more meaningful and relevant.

5. Let Students Improve Their Work

- Offer students the chance to rewrite their papers and retake their tests. And please give everyone this opportunity, not just those who didn't earn a certain percentage. Even your "A" students can still improve.
 - **The Good** - It keeps the focus on the learning, not the grade.
 - **The Better** - It allows students to explain the changes they make.
 - **The Best** - It teaches perseverance and resilience.