How to Choose Effective Assessment Methods

When connecting a learning outcome to a form of assessment it's worth remembering that assessment is a tool for teaching, not a scale that determines success or failure. This worksheet will help bridge the gap between what you're asking students to achieve (through your learning outcomes) and how you're going to measure their success through various forms of assessment.

To help with this we've created a four-step approach:

1 Develop an actionable learning outcome (if needed please reference *Creating Actionable Learning Outcomes*, our second Teaching Tool)

2 Identify the action verb within that learning outcome (i.e. explain, identify, categorize, etc.)

3 Determine which cognitive learning level (Bloom's level) this verb fits into (i.e. explain → analyze)

4 Choose an effective assessment method (see Bloom's Taxonomy, below)

Bloom's taxonomy is one of the most useful tools available to educators. Why? It's the answer key to how students learn and helps equip educators with the knowledge they need to design valid assessment techniques. Below, we've outlined the different levels of learning for your students and the most appropriate technique to assess the domain you're looking to enhance.

PRO-TIP:
Start thinking about how your various assessments will fit into your formative or summative plans of evaluation.

BLOOM'S LEVEL OF LEARNING

ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUE	Remember	Understand	Apply	Analyze	Evaluate	Create
Multiple Choice questions	✅	✅	✅	∽		
True/False questions	✅	✅				
Matching	✅	✅				
Short Answer/Word Answer	✅	✅	✅	∽		
Discussion/Essay			∽	✅	✅	✅
Oral			∽	✅	✅	✅
Anecdotal, comments	∽	∽				✅

✅ Always appropriate   ∽ Can be appropriate in some situations

EFFECTIVE ASSESSMENT METHODS

PRO-TIP: Keep in mind our four-step approach when filling out this chart.

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3 Determine which cognitive learning level (Bloom's level) this verb fits into (i.e. explain → analyze)

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TOPIC:

LEARNING OUTCOMES	ACTION VERB	COGNITIVE DOMAIN (BLOOM'S)	ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUE(S)
EXAMPLE: **LEARNING OUTCOME 1.1** Students will be able to **explain** the importance of homeostasis in the human body including its effects on the body's physiological systems.	Explain	Analyze	• Discussion questions • Essay questions • Oral

EFFECTIVE ASSESSMENT METHODS

TOPIC:

LEARNING OUTCOMES	ACTION VERB	COGNITIVE DOMAIN (BLOOM'S)	ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUE(S)