

# Alternative Assessment



Alternative Assessments aim to assess what students know and what they can do with what they know. Rather than focusing on a correct answer, alternative assessments explore the process and reasoning behind the response. They are also called "authentic assessments" because they provide opportunities for students to engage in "real world" style practice of their knowledge and skills.

## 01. What do I want to assess?



- acquisition of specific content knowledge or ability to apply that knowledge to new situations
- production of a product or the process to produce it
- writing ability
- speaking skills
- ability to visually organize or express content
- ability to work in a group or team
- performance in a time- constrained assessment situation

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## 02. What are examples of quiz & exam alternatives?

Multiple-choice with explanation | Meaningful paragraph | Short-answer | Quiz retakes | Quiz series | Open book exam | Open note exam | Replacing tests with summaries | Performance tests | Paper instead of test | ePortfolios



## 03. What are examples of paper alternatives?



Literature review | Executive summary | Research or grant proposal | Scientific abstract | Policy summary, memo, or briefing | Paper start (thesis & outline) | Professional poster or presentation | Annotated research bibliography | Fact sheet | Reflective paper | Infographic | Op-Ed | Multimedia discussion board | Blogs | Vlogs | Podcasts

## 04. What about grading?

Detailed rubrics help streamline the grading of alternative assessments. When included in the assignment information provided to students, rubrics also provide valuable guidance to students on the characteristics of quality work.

Adding a peer review component to alternative assessments can help manage the grading load while enhancing the student learning experience by providing practice with reflection and feedback.



## 05. Where can I get more information?

Visit this link - [Alternative Assessment Guide for Hybrid/Online Teaching](#) - or email [cte@tamu.edu](mailto:cte@tamu.edu).

