

We have spent some time looking at rubrics. Now I would like to back up and look at assessments in general. Although testing takes place several times during the year, it is most prevalent at the end of grading periods.

There are two basic types of assessments: formative and summative.

A [formative assessment](https://www.teachingchannel.org/blog/2015/01/30/formative-assessment-practices-sbac/?utm_source=newsletter20140131) is a deliberate, interactive process that a teacher and students use to check progress and understanding frequently. It allows you to adjust curriculum to meet the targeted goals. We are trying to accomplish four things with formative assessments:

* Clarify intended learning.
* Elicit evidence.
* Interpret evidence.
* Act on evidence.

These four items are what we looked at being able to do with rubrics. Many CTE projects happen over time, so rather than using one rubric to cover the entire project, you can break the project down into parts and use several rubrics. It will allow you to give feedback and grades and allow the students to find completion before they complete the entire project. This method also allows you to have grades in your grade book if needed for eligibility or school policy.

Most teachers assess as they were assessed in school, but you can assess and give feedback without grading. Rubrics can be used as a summative grade while also being a formative tool.

Summative assessments evaluate student learning to a preset benchmark. Summative is the assessment **of** learning, and formative is the assessment **for** learning.

At this time of year, students are also competing in CareerTech student organization contests. It does not matter if they are in FFA, HOSA, BPA, FCCLA, DECA, SkillsUSA or TSA: If they are competing in a state level competition, they are participating in summative evaluation.

Next week, we will start looking at formative assessment facts and fiction.

There is one more Teacher Academy meeting Jan. 30. If you have not registered you can still do so at [Teacher Academy](http://www.okcareertech.org/educators/professional-development/continuing-teacher-academy).