

# Alternative Assessments

Going beyond papers and tests

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# Workshop Outcomes

- ▶ Participants will be able to differentiate between typical and alternative assessments
- ▶ Participants will be able to define authentic assessment
- ▶ Participants will be able to identify an alternative and typical assessment for outcome evaluation

# Assessment Cycle (Process)



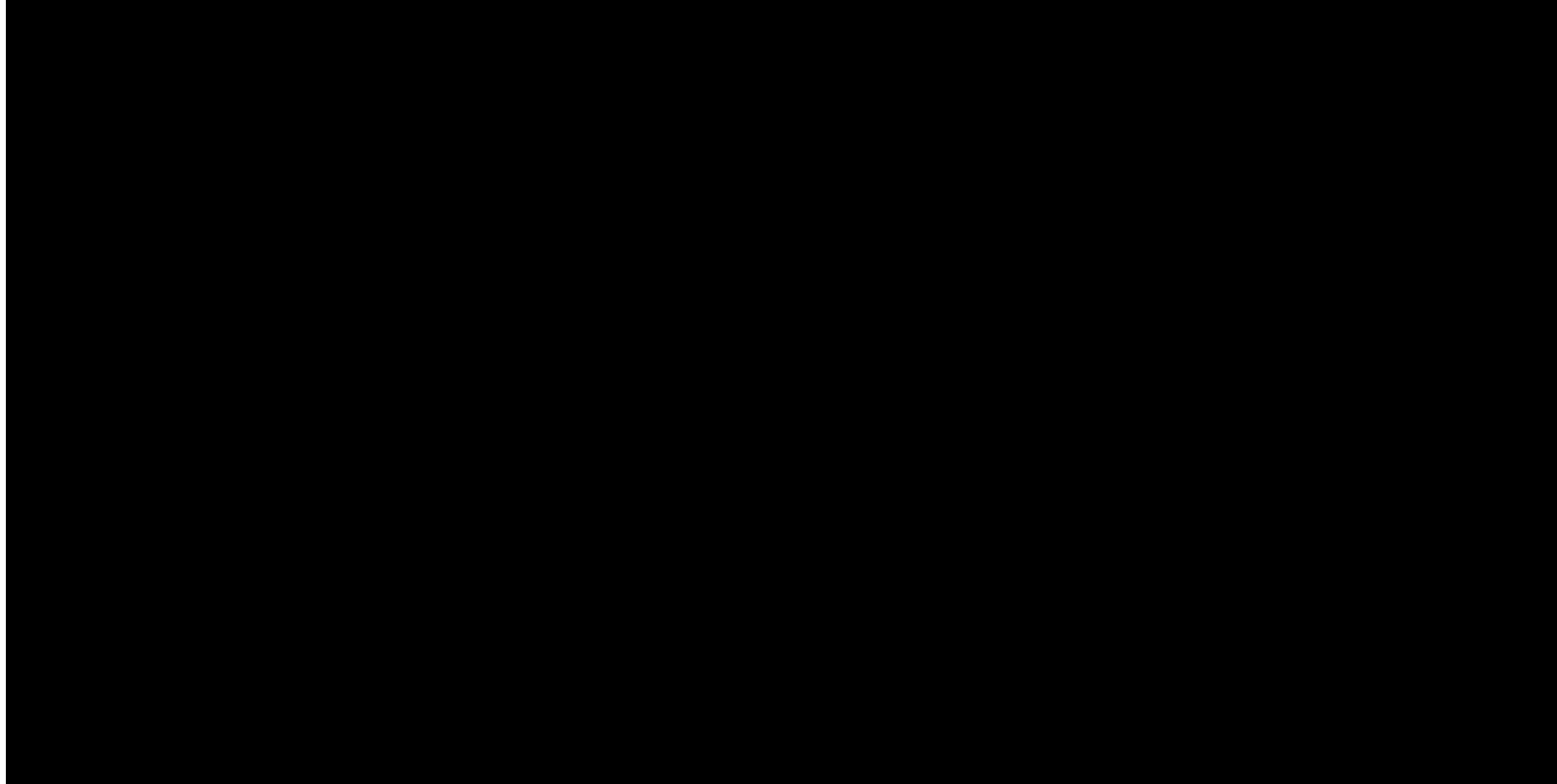
# Assessments (Tool)

- ▶ Assessments (evaluations) are the tools we use to collect evidence of student growth. (surveys, papers, presentations)
- ▶ Learning Outcomes
  - ▶ Essays
  - ▶ Projects
  - ▶ MC Exams
  - ▶ Presentations
  - ▶ Labs
  - ▶ Demonstrations/  
Exhibits/  
Performances
- ▶ Implementation Outcomes
  - ▶ Counts
  - ▶ Meeting  
Minutes/Documents
  - ▶ Web analytics
- ▶ Satisfaction Outcomes
  - ▶ Surveys
  - ▶ Focus Groups
  - ▶ Interviews

# Why Alternative Assessments

Teri Balsler

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# Authentic Assessment

**Authentic assessment** is the measurement of "intellectual accomplishments that are worthwhile, significant, and meaningful," as contrasted to multiple choice standardized tests. **Authentic assessment** can be devised by the teacher, or in collaboration with the student by engaging student voice.

[Wikipedia](#)





# Additional Alternative Assessment Examples

- ▶ Blogs
- ▶ Student-led Teaching
- ▶ Debate
- ▶ Service Learning
- ▶ Interviews
- ▶ Digital Storytelling
- ▶ Problem Solving
- ▶ Observation
- ▶ Performance-based
- ▶ Portfolios
- ▶ Journals
- ▶ Designs and Art Work
- ▶ Model Construction



# Traditional vs Alternative

1. Teacher Selected
2. One Right Answer
3. Leveled by Grade
4. Content Specific
5. Sanctioned by Time and Predetermined by Space
6. Traditional Audience of Lone Teacher
7. Unimodal Communication

1. Student Selected
2. Multiple Right Answers
3. Mastery Level Determined by Student
4. Content Weaving Across Multiple Disciplines
5. Progress Through Multiple Steps
6. Public Audience
7. Multimodal Communication

# Tapping into Your Own Activities

1. Identify an outcome you want to assess.
2. List the activity that you will use to help participants achieve the outcome.
3. Identify something that you already do to determine if the outcome has been met.
4. Think of an alternative form of assessment and list it as well.
5. Describe how you will know if the outcome has been met.

Student Outcomes	Activities	Assessments

When discussing this with a partner, think about the following:

- ▶ Why did you choose the alternative assessment?
- ▶ What are the pros/cons of the alternative assessment?



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